

New Mission News

COMFORTING THE AFFLICTED AND AFFLICTING THE COMFORTABLE SINCE 1980 • JUNE 2001



Church and 20th Street, 1927 Photo courtesy of Doug Johnson

Mission groups unite to stop gang violence after senseless shooting

City funds will go to community based five year peace plan

by Joe Donohoe

In the wake of the tragic murder of Leticia Ramirez outside of her home in the early morning hours of April 29th, neighborhood and media attention has been focused on the apparently unending problem of gang violence in the Mission. This is not the first time.

Ms. Ramirez had been standing on her front porch with several friends on York Street when a drive-by shooting ended her life. The 33 year-old widow was not affiliated with any gangs or criminal activities and left behind five children.

The suspected perpetrators, apprehended after a high-speed chase which ended near 3Com Park, were Mauricio Sandoval, 21 and Eliezer Salcedo, 26, both of whom were affiliated with the Sureños. The shooting occurred in Norteño (the archenemies of the Sureños) dominated territory. Whether the shooting was a case of mistaken identity or something else, police called the crime "senseless"

In the last twelve years 128 people have died in the Mission from gang violence. Understandably, people are saddened and outraged. Community organizations, politicians and the police promised to curb gang violence and announced a five-year plan to wean juveniles from the gang lifestyle.

Esperanza ("hope" in Spanish), a coalition that has been evolving over the past eight months to deal with the many problems of young people in the Mission, has drawn up a plan which will use \$100,000 of city money to create a strategy to defuse youth crime. Accordingly both Tom Ammiano and Sophie Maxwell, the supervisors from the Mission and Bayshore, have secured \$200,000 to pump into gang suppression in their respective neighborhoods.

While such efforts are commendable they've been attempted before, indeed continuously attempted over the decade, and have often run into obstacles if not outright derailment. This is why, despite the best efforts of people such as RAP (Real Alternatives Program), Calles and other organizations, the Mission is still a neighborhood where young people murder each other with alarming ease. Has anything been learned from experience in this latest wave of activism? Many of those involved believe so.

The Wisdom of Experience

David Mauroff of Columbia Park Boys and Girls' Club who is involved with Esperanza, thinks that the difference this time is to be found in organization and cooperation. In the past Mauroff had been critical of non-profits and organizations

Continued on page 4



Photo by Gary Stenger

More wattage than God

At the height of California's energy crisis, 400 Dolores Street blazes like a midnight sun. To the astonishment of his tenants, especially those on the now garishly bright upper story, the landlord installed dozens of floodlights around the top floor of the building sometime in February. All point skyward, showing off a fancy new paint job from dusk to dawn. Passing by the intersection of 17th and Dolores in the evening, one gets the impression of a Hollywood movie premiere or some alien's desperate attempt to signal the mother ship.

One block away Mission Dolores, in light of the power shortage, no longer illuminates its towers at night; but at 400 Dolores it's "Damn the megawatts, just burn, baby, burn all night long!"

What is especially shocking is that the owner of the property turns out to be none other than local luminary Victor G. Makras, president of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. At a March press conference with Mayor Brown, announcing the opening of an energy efficiency fair, Makras pontificated, "Conservation is no longer an option, but rather a way of life."

Asked if he thought his building set a good example of conservation, Makras responded with a simple "We have no comment, sir." Perhaps his use of the royal "we" means that conservation is only a way of life for us peasants.

Victor Miller

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To the Egress

First Person

My name is Scott Bravmann. Like far too many San Franciscans, I have just lost my rent-controlled apartment, my home of more than eleven years. As I had been fearing might happen, one of the two new owners of the building decided to move in. Buying what had been rental housing and evicting one of the tenants, so he alleges, was the only way he could afford to move to San Francisco, following his youngest son to college. He's probably right, but that doesn't help me in the least.

I had been living with the anxiety of being evicted for more than six months, ever since it became clear that someone was going to buy the place, so the shock of finally getting kicked out was less than I thought it would be but still quite bad enough. After that initial shock, however, I have had time to give more thought to what has happened to me and my household, and to think about it in relation to what has happened to San Francisco.

I moved to San Francisco at the end of March 1990, renting a room in the apartment I have now just lost. At the time I was a second-year graduate student at UC Santa Cruz, but I felt moving to San Francisco was so necessary to me that I could justify the horrible commute by bus and train. The rent for my room, though fifty percent of my average monthly income, was the best I could find, and the place was suitable if not wonderful.

That place, which over the years I had turned from a run-down dump to a moderately pleasant place to live, gave me the necessary private space to do many of the things that mattered to me. My life wasn't perfect there, not by a long shot, but it was my life. I managed, with varying degrees of success over those eleven years, to complete my graduate education, to maintain some sort of activist existence, to continue writing, and to have a couple of meaningful long-term relationships. And, especially in the past couple of years, that apartment's familiarity provided much-needed privacy in which I could recover from the increasingly hostile, unfriendly, apolitical, and uninteresting public spaces and cultures of San Francisco.

It is exceedingly painful to write that, because I once thought of San Francisco as a unique place of refuge and creativity. I suppose it still is, for some, even if just barely so or to a far lesser degree than what it was only a decade ago.

Maybe it's just me, or more specifically the particular moment of my arrival in the city, but unmistakable changes have taken place here. The interrelated disasters of the housing crisis, the virtual elimination of public spaces as benches disappear from city sidewalks and Business Improvement Districts are established to allow for private policing of commercial districts, the proliferation of Starbuck's, Blockbuster, Walgreens and other chains, and the increasing narrowing of the economy toward white collar work and the low-end service jobs in support of that lifestyle have made San Francisco a far different, and less hospitable, city.

When I moved to San Francisco, ACT UP had already been disturbing complacent governments, corporations, and communities for a couple of years, and Queer

Nation would soon burst on the scene, with its exciting mix of politics, theater, sexiness, and innovation as well as its tired male dominance, troubled race relations, arrogant self-centeredness, and petty powerplays and infighting. And when the father of the current male occupant of the White House started bombing Iraq, there was an inspiring amount of anti-Gulf War organizing, with a significant and necessary queer presence in those protests.

While Queer Nation and other forms of unapologetic, innovative activism flourished briefly at a particular moment and would always have been an unsustainable movement, these kinds of politics drew from and gave back to a huge variety of ways of living in San Francisco. Yet, even without Queer Nation, life in San Francisco when I arrived here was interesting, dynamic, eclectic, and creative. And there are material reasons for that, as much as there are cultural ones, the most basic of which was affordable housing, where one could live with roommates and survive comfortably on a part-time job or as a student on grants or loans or work-study and thus be able to make unpaid contributions to urban life.

From my perspective, it is not an exaggeration to say that, eleven years after my arrival, the city that was Queer Nation is now Paradise Lost.

Had I not been evicted, I might well have stayed forever in San Francisco, and remained in the flat that was my home for



Scott Bravmann

Photo by Gary Stenger

twice as long as anywhere else I have ever lived, despite the significant loss of things that matter to me about the city. But that is not what happened, so I am unable to retreat into my own private space, desperately seeking shelter from San Francisco's

urban nightmare. Paradise, a complex city of difference, disagreements, and dynamism rather than an empty place of vast similarity and bourgeois consensus, is lost, and I don't see how we can recover it, even if I so very much wish that we might.

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3. FISHERMAN'S WHARF (SEAFOOD) <i>Shrimp, Clams, Garlic</i>	11.35	13.65	15.85
4. NOB HILL (CHICKEN) <i>Chicken, Mushrooms, Sun Dried Tomatoes, Onions</i>	11.75	15.75	17.35
5. MISSION BELL (MEXICAN) <i>Ground Beef, Onions, Fresh Tomatoes, Black Olives, Jalapenos</i>	13.45	16.75	18.65
6. PACIFIC HEIGHTS (ALL MEAT) <i>Ham, Beef, Pepperoni, Canadian Bacon, Sausage, Salami</i>	13.30	16.85	19.95
7. SAN FRANCISCO <i>Artichoke Hearts, Fresh Tomatoes, Garlic, Sausage</i>	10.85	13.45	17.10
8. HAWAIIAN SPECIAL <i>Canadian Bacon, Pineapple</i>	9.95	12.90	14.10
9. ATHENS BY NIGHT (GREEK) <i>Spinach, Feta Cheese, Black Olives, Pesto, Basil</i>	12.10	14.75	17.10
10. VALENCIA SPECIAL <i>Artichoke Hearts, Sun-Dried Tomatoes, Garlic, Black Olives, Zucchini</i>	11.85	13.85	15.85

PIZZAS

PLAIN CHEESE	7.95	9.95	12.05
1 TOPPING	8.75	11.15	13.35
2 TOPPINGS	9.85	12.35	14.80
3 TOPPINGS	10.55	13.55	16.25
EACH ADDITIONAL TOPPING	.70	1.00	1.40

TOPPINGS

Salami • Pepperoni • Sausage • Ground Beef • Ham • Canadian Bacon • Olives • Garlic • Zucchini • Fresh Spinach • Fresh Tomato • Onion • Pesto • Baby Clams • Chicken • Anchovies • Shrimp • Feta Cheese • Bell Peppers • Mushroom • Roasted Red Bell Peppers • Jalapeno • Pineapple • Artichoke

PASTA

SPAGHETTI BOLOGNESE	7.75
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RAVIOLI MEATSAUCE	8.95
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FETTUCINI ALFREDO	8.75
FETTUCINI PESTO	8.75
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LINGUINI CLAMS	9.95
STUFFED MANICOTTI	8.85
TORTELLINI FLORENTINI	9.65

ENTREES

RED SNAPPER	9.65
GRILLED SALMON	10.25
PRAWNS SAUTÉ	11.25
FRIED PRAWNS	9.85
CHICKEN MARSALA	9.75
CHICKEN PARMIGIANA	9.95
CHICKEN PICATA	10.95
MARINATED GRILLED CHICKEN	8.25
CHICKEN SCALOPPINI	10.95
PEPPERCORN STEAK	12.50
NEW YORK STEAK	11.95

APPETIZERS




MOZZARELLA STICKS	4.50
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RISOTTO DE CARNE <i>Beef strips with mushrooms, onions & herbs in rice</i>	8.20
SEAFOOD RISOTTO	8.85

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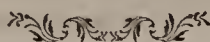


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involved in youth crime prevention efforts in this paper and elsewhere. Organizations were not achieving their stated goals, were not eliminating violent crime amongst juveniles and were overextending themselves and squandering public resources.

The difference now is "everybody knows what everybody else is doing," said Mauroff. "There is going to be stricter accountability [than in the past] and funding is focused on collaboration. We happen to have a real positive system of relationships in Esperanza. Non-profits, churches, community leaders, businesses, we're getting everybody to the table and everybody gets included in finding solutions." Mauroff also praised Lisa Gutierrez of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods and Angela Clavello from Supervisor Ammiano's office for their fine work on this issue.

One thing that sets Esperanza apart philosophically from existing organizations is that as an umbrella group it transcends traditional boundaries to achieve neighborhood-wide youth outreach.

In the past sponsorship programs run by various non-profits would work with gangs in particular sectors of the Mission and end up, unintentionally, strengthening gang structures and divisions; while one non-profit would work with blue color wearing Sureños, another organization would work only with red-wearing Norteños. The result was often an unintentional reinforcement of gang identity among youth involved in the programs. Divisions in policy and methods among non-profit leaders also reinforced divisions among the gang members.

Alex Vila, Director of Columbia Boys and Girls Club, specializes in providing "safe haven" for troubled young people with funds provided by the Justice Department. "We provide safe haven for young people between the ages of six and eighteen to develop in a healthy manner. We provide education, job development and a peaceful environment for youth that wouldn't otherwise have it in their homes or wherever. A place removed from negative peer pressure."

The Boys and Girls Club is only funded for one safe haven center but provides

ten throughout the city, including two in the Mission. Vila said she saw involvement with Esperanza as a "holistic" approach to the problem of gang violence. Different organizations focus on different problems and specialize in providing different services.

Jamestown, for instance, works with very young children while Sister to Sister is a resource for girls and young women. "None of these organizations has the resources alone to solve all the problems that young people face but with a network like Esperanza in place we can network together, make referrals and work in a cooperative manner rather than competitive."

People have had enough

Esperanza was formed by a number of non-profits, businesses and institutions including Jamestown, RAP High School, the Calles Program, Mission Neighborhood Centers, Sunrise Sidewalk Cleaners, the Precita Youth Center and church groups. Already making strategy decisions by the time of the Ramirez shooting, members of Esperanza took the opportunity of a press conference held by the Ramirez family on the steps of St. Paul's Church on May 11th to talk to the media about their "Five Year Plan".

Roberto Hernandez, a Mission District publisher and activist, who had been brought on by Mission Neighborhood Centers to act as a consultant and organizer, said that they wanted to treat gang violence as "a mental health issue, an epidemic." Over the next five years, he continued, "we're going to involve the community, have parent focus groups, take each gang kid away from the environment to get some perspective and involve them in figuring out more positive ways for them to behave."

Hernandez said that generations of families have been impacted by gang culture through younger children looking up to their older brothers in gangs or even their parents or grand parents. Acknowledging problems in the past, Hernandez said that the yet-to-be-elected steering committee of Esperanza would be financially accountable. "I've had a kid die in my arms after getting shot outside of a tacqueria. This has got to stop. Home owners, business people, the churches, they've got to get together and stop all this."

The initial \$100,000 would only cover the six month planning stage, after which the member organizations of Esperanza would pool their resources and support each other in funding efforts over the next five years.

At the St. Paul's meeting Captain Ron Roth of the Mission Police Station, Assistant DA Mario José Jovel, Supervisor Sophie Maxwell and representatives from both the Mayor and Supervisor Ammiano met with the Ramirez family. An abalone bowl with burning incense was passed around and silence was observed on the sunny morning.

As the television cameras took in the scene and reporters took notes, the family made their plea for no more violence and no retaliation. For the time being this request has been respected. If there was an emotion that was predominant on the church steps besides grief it was exhaustion.

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WEB SITE: sfmission.com

Are you paying too much rent?

Most are unaware that hundreds of Mission units are subject to OMI restrictions

by Ted Gullicksen, SF TenantsUnion

Under the San Francisco Rent Control law, apartments where tenants have been evicted under "owner or relative move in" (OMI) can only be offered for rent again at the same rent the evicted tenant was paying (plus any annual increases which would have been allowed).

The following addresses in the 94110 zip code were subject to an OMI eviction between May of 1998 and May of 2001 and thus all have re-rental restrictions on them (the date of the eviction is listed-the rent restrictions last three years from that date). These addresses were provided to the SF Tenants Union from the SF Rent Board's database of OMI evictions.

In many case, the rent the evicted tenant was paying is listed; if it is not listed, that informationis available at the Rent Board.

Any tenants living in one of these units (who moved in after the notice) should file a petition for an "Illegal Rent Increase" at the SF Rent Board, 25 Van Ness Avenue. The Rent Board will then set the rent down to what it should be and order any overpayments to be refunded. Tenants may want to come in to the SF Tenants Union (call 282-6622) to talk to a counselor first.

Anyone who sees one of these addresses being rented can acquire the apartment at the rent it should be (rather than the much higher rent it will be advertised at). Tenants who want to rent one of these units should come in to the SF Tenants Union and talk to a counselor first and/or e mail omi@sftu.org.

The SF Tenants Union website-www.sftu.org- contains OMI addresses in all zip codes in the city and sftu.org will be updated continually as new addresses are listed.

House#	Street	Unit	Rent Paid	Date Filed
3241	17th		1095	6/7/00
3483	17th			11/2/99
3583	17th		581	11/15/00
3230	18th		850	6/22/00
3331	18th			10/12/99
3483	18th			10/5/99
3645	18th	4		1/25/99
3333	19th		1239	8/2/99
3573	19th			1/5/00
2000	20th		2500	12/20/99
2633	20th			4/6/99
2710	20th			11/9/98
2827	20th			8/11/00
3440	20th	103		11/12/98
3556	20th		1000	9/10/99
2619	21st		1029	7/27/00
2776	21st	Lwr	1000	12/20/99
3380	21st	7	411	5/11/00
3380	21st	7	411	5/22/00
3442	21st			12/14/98
2628	22nd			2/1/99
2758	22nd		930	8/11/00
2854	22nd	A		1/8/99
2854	22nd	A		3/17/99
3354	22nd		1143	3/9/00
3888	22nd		1323	7/29/99
2800	23rd	A	800	3/2/01
2955	23rd			12/14/98
3321	23rd		1351	1/24/01
3325	23rd		710	9/3/99
3503	23rd		836	9/27/00
2752	24th		966	8/25/99
2871	24th	B		11/23/98
3427	25th		919	4/12/01
3435	25th		2300	4/25/01
2967	26th			4/7/99
3441	26th		800	5/16/00
3601	26th	A	790	9/6/00
3601	26th	B	833	1/31/01
186	27th		1186	6/15/00
188	27th		1992	6/15/00
55	28th			7/9/99
37	29th	A		12/14/98
81	29th		944	11/2/99
6	30th		730	7/9/99
865	Alabama		956	4/6/01
867	Alabama		1235	3/28/01
869	Alabama		1336	4/6/01
873	Alabama		870	6/4/99

873	Alabama		870	8/11/99
965	Alabama		1025	5/5/00
1031	Alabama	A		10/20/00
1043	Alabama		1500	7/3/00
1160	Alabama		959	3/9/00
1176	Alabama			4/26/99
143	Anderson		1100	11/7/00
433	Anderson			6/15/99
461	Andover		1200	12/28/00
501	Andover		1000	6/22/00
649	Andover		300	8/23/00
715	Andover		970	5/11/00
60	Appleton	A	970	6/25/99
4	Appleton			12/9/99
496	Benton		1043	3/30/01
18	Bonview			12/24/98
32	Bradford			7/17/00
32	Bradford		840	9/19/00
260	Bradford		1125	11/10/00
2205B	Bryant		830	8/9/99
2211	Bryant		1000	7/3/00
2211	Bryant		1000	11/13/00
2325	Bryant			10/20/99
2661	Bryant		906	1/17/01
2663	Bryant		850	6/21/99
3631	C.Chavez	B		11/24/98
50	Camp		874	4/25/01
242	Capp	3		2/25/99
367	Capp	2		4/24/99
371	Capp	A	737	3/10/00
372	Capp		1450	11/22/00
467	Capp			1/6/99
569	Capp		1228	9/14/00
657	Capp	1	950	9/20/99
922	Capp		975	1/10/00
964	Capp			6/28/00
1153	Capp		1640	10/10/00
61	Coleridge		875	6/2/00
73	Coleridge		798	7/23/99
114	Coleridge			1/22/99
132	Coleridge	A	911	8/26/99
285	Coleridge			8/23/99
371	Coleridge	A	1264	6/16/00
619	Cortland		409	9/27/00
828	Cortland			8/17/00
907	Cortland			10/11/00
907	Cortland		262	3/29/01
11	Coso	11	1206	11/1/00
295	Coso		2200	12/4/00
11	Costa			2/18/99
72	Crescent			12/22/98

House#	Street	Unit	Rent Paid	Date Filed	House#	Street	Unit	Rent Paid	Date Filed
157	Crescent		2000	4/28/00	848	Potrero		870	10/12/99
25	Cumbelld		450	11/6/00	940	Potrero	A	650	2/22/00
112	De Haro			3/23/99	1221	Potrero			11/30/99
58	Dolores		1134	6/15/99	1231	Potrero			11/9/99
443	Dolores			11/3/98	14	Powers	A	799	9/9/99
491	Dolores	A		11/2/98	38	Powers	Lwr	650	10/4/00
557	Dolores			7/14/99	28	Precita			9/22/00
720	Dolores	5	1714	8/2/99	187	Precita		829	7/6/99
880	Dolores		1200	11/1/99	225	Precita			9/22/00
884	Dolores		1555	4/9/01	648	Precita			1/11/00
907	Dolores		1468	5/15/99	639	Prentiss		1200	6/4/99
1000	Dolores		1480	8/8/00	371	Prospect		750	5/2/00
1004½	Dolores			4/19/00	166	Richland		1045	2/8/01
1049	Dolores	4	1500	10/8/99	337	Richland		458	3/7/00
1050	Dolores	D		10/24/00	349	Richland			12/8/99
1060	Dolores	B		1/4/99	363	Richland	Lwr	750	12/11/00
1193	Dolores		1416	7/31/00	157	Ripley		1400	8/26/99
1298	Dolores			9/1/00	190	Ripley			12/5/00
1308	Dolores		1466	9/2/99	56	Roscoe		970	1/4/01
1436	Dolores		1300	1/10/01	1217	San Bruno	A		3/6/00
1442	Dolores		1660	7/7/99	1343	San Bruno			3/31/00
1672	Dolores	1		1/25/99	1361	San Bruno	2		12/12/00
1679	Dolores		1302	4/5/00	1394	San Bruno		1298	9/13/99
32	Dorland	4	850	1/3/00	1396	San Bruno		1294	9/13/99
72	Dorland		907	8/11/99	22	San Carlos		650	2/14/00
7	Duncan		854	9/22/00	112	San Carlos		1028	10/17/00
176	Duncan		2131	6/7/00	157	San Carlos	A	561	2/4/00
53	Elizabeth		1250	8/14/00	159	San Carlos	A	951	4/12/01
115	Ellington		1085	8/23/00	241	San Carlos		1040	11/14/00
218	Ellsworth	A	1350	7/3/00	243	San Carlos			10/4/00
245	Ellsworth		850	1/3/00	333	San Carlos	2	940	2/16/01
237	Elsie		2000	2/21/01	334	San Carlos		2400	8/28/00
1155	Florida		850	5/10/00	562	San Jose		929	1/4/00
1317	Florida		1000	7/12/99	568	San Jose			2/2/99
1333	Florida			3/16/99	568	San Jose			4/21/99
2428	Folsom		1040	3/20/01	891	San Jose		790	4/9/01
2533	Folsom		1000	12/29/00	335	Shotwell			11/10/98
2645	Folsom			4/28/99	335	Shotwell	A		2/12/99
2737	Folsom			11/12/98	335	Shotwell	A	322	4/5/01
2739	Folsom			4/28/99	522	Shotwell		1543	12/29/00
2752	Folsom			11/5/98	633	Shotwell		515	3/15/00
2994	Folsom			12/29/00	1153	Shotwell		1500	11/7/00
4015	Folsom			3/9/99	1308	Shotwell		700	3/28/01
4107	Folsom	A	840	9/27/99	654	S.VanNess		490	1/29/01
439	Franconia			12/10/98	762	S.VanNess		935	10/18/00
330	Gates		800	7/13/99	769	S.VanNess			3/18/99
534	Guerrero		550	6/4/99	905	S.VanNess		498	11/17/00
1052	Guerrero		1830	7/18/00	1039	S.VanNess			5/15/00
1201	Guerrero	1	960	9/28/00	1187	S.VanNess		1548	12/6/00
1201	Guerrero	1	962	4/9/01	72	Sycamore			3/31/00
1272	Guerrero		1386	8/10/00	80	Sycamore			12/15/99
1356	Guerrero		500	3/2/01	105	Tiffany		1140	1/19/00
1407	Guerrero	A	850	5/3/00	164	Tiffany		867	5/20/99
1411½	Guerrero			12/15/98	718	Treat		1125	1/19/00
1434	Guerrero		1100	8/16/99	1015	Treat		1223	7/12/99
1478	Guerrero		1056	4/27/00	1047	Treat		1480	10/20/99
1512	Guerrero		1068	12/11/00	1066	Treat			12/15/98
1523	Guerrero		1031	11/18/99	1066A	Treat		870	8/2/99
146	Hampshire	Upr	1150	10/11/00	1152	Treat			8/3/00
1264	Hampshire			11/25/98	1156	Treat	B	900	4/6/00
1322	Hampshire		640	6/21/00	448	Utah		1200	6/2/00
1364	Hampshire	Lwr	530	8/18/00	478	Utah			12/17/98
2713	Harrison		862	7/6/00	478	Utah			2/16/99
2731	Harrison			1/10/00	514	Utah		1750	4/14/00
2733	Harrison			1/10/00	1305	Utah	2	700	12/7/99
2741	Harrison		1539	8/14/00	523	Valencia			11/24/98
2743	Harrison		856	5/2/00	1446	Valencia	A	670	1/3/01
2941	Harrison	A		11/16/98	1447	Valencia		1794	12/19/00
2951	Harrison			10/13/00	1470	Valencia	4	495	5/5/00
2951	Harrison		899	12/27/00	1491	Valencia			2/11/99
271	Harrison		908	12/10/99	1256	Vermont		1200	12/29/00
110	Highland			3/23/99	51	Virginia		700	8/9/99
144	Highland	Top		6/14/00	308	Virginia			12/5/00
41	Hill		600	4/17/00	42	Winfield		1900	7/20/99
41	Hill	1	908	4/17/00	62	Winfield			11/5/98
30	Kingston		1260	11/3/00	97	Winfield		600	5/15/00
141	Leese			10/5/00	941	York	2		4/29/99
23	Lexington		875	2/21/01	974	York		1250	6/24/99
117	Lexington	3		11/2/98	1214	York			1/7/99
130	Lexington	A	464	4/20/01	1462	York			4/26/99
175	Lexington		350	5/10/99	1634	York		800	10/10/00
220	Lexington	2	550	7/28/99					
321	Lexington		875	1/16/01					
121	Liberty	A	1475	8/26/99					
115	Lundys			3/12/01					
91	Manchester		1496	11/16/00					
27	Mirabel	Upr	1409	5/22/00					
2647	Mission	5	856	9/12/00					
3631	Mission		398	9/28/99					
667	Moultrie		1261	7/14/99					
74	Nevada			4/12/99					
280	Orange		1128	1/26/00					
115	Park	A	833	7/18/00					
338	Park			3/22/99					
519	Peralta		1150	12/16/99					
57	Peters	Upr		3/10/99					

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Job seekers on Chavez Street receive information on the Day Laborers Program. Photo by

Margaret Yamasaki

SF Day Laborers Program fights for justice and workers rights

An interview with program director Renee Saucedo

By Josie Mattson

NMN: Tell me about the system of day labor, how it works and why it exists.

Every morning, hundreds of men in this city wake to the questions, "Will I work today? Will I be paid?" No, they aren't members of the newly unemployed class of dot-commers; these men were here before the dot-coms, their counterparts were in San Francisco probably before most of us, and they'll be here for years to come. They're the city's day laborers, who do manual labor for a range of employers on a day-to-day basis, under working and living conditions that are always precarious.

Their presence on Cesar Chavez Street, where hundreds of them wait for work each day, has been the cause of long-standing neighborhood controversy and legal disputes. The eleven-year-old, primarily city-funded San Francisco Day Labor Program was created to deal with the many issues these workers face: unfair treatment, unsafe working conditions, housing, documentation, medical care, and more. It also deals with the broader issue of integrating these men, who are largely undocumented, into the community.

Right now, the most pressing issue with which the program struggles is the need to rent a space near the workers. The Day Laborers Program currently has two trailers in Franklin Square Park, two miles from Cesar Chavez, with no running water or heat.

Some residents and property owners in the Cesar Chavez area have kept the Day Labor Program from renting a space

in the neighborhood. They've complained about the dangers of having so many men out on the street each day, the harassment experienced by women walking by, and property destruction and misuse of the sidewalks. Some people don't want the workers there, and they don't want the program to rent there.

One fundamental, but often misunderstood, object of the program is to defend the workers' right to be on the streets. The DLP isn't looking for a building big enough to house every day laborer. That would be impossible. The program wants space where these workers can go, so that their efforts to institutionalize the system of day labor can be more effective.

The New Mission News interviewed Renee Saucedo, director of the SF Day Labor Program, who talked about the role day laborers have played in the city and the trials the program is enduring in its efforts to make day laborers a part of the community.

RS: Day laborers have existed throughout modern history. In San Francisco there have been day laborers at least since the turn of the century, going into the thirties during the huge labor strikes. The day laborers who live and work in SF [originally] started [waiting] on Cesar Chavez Street because of certain businesses like the Kelly Moore Paint Store, which attracted a lot of the contractors and home owners that would go buy their supplies, and also [were] on their way in to be able to pick up their hired help.

NMN: Who are the day laborers? Where do they come from?

RS: Day laborers are migrant workers who arrived in this country, predominantly from various parts of Latin America. They come to this country, very simply put, to work because they can't afford to feed themselves or feed their families in their home countries. Their ages range from 16 to 65. The educational level varies, although it is primarily working class. Many of them are indigenous. Spanish is not even their first language. Unfortunately, many times people tend to dehumanize them. They are poor working men. Here in SF their situation [is that they are] here without their families, having to send money home.

They are living in precarious situations. Many are homeless. Some live with family and friends. Some share studios with one another. A lot of them live in the shelters, and some of them live in the street. Most of them live in the Mission or in the Tenderloin.

NMN: What are the legal rights of those workers who are undocumented?

RS: Their legal rights are: they are allowed to stand on the street to wait for work. There's nothing illegal about that. If they work, they are protected by a whole number of labor laws, including minimum wage, overtime, to not be discriminated against based on their race, national origin, religion. They're entitled legally to health and safety rules. They're entitled to a safe and healthy work environment. They're entitled to workers' compensation if they get injured on the job.

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What happens, however, is employers try to get away with exploiting them because they are temporary and casual workers. The employers know what their immigration status is, and so there's a lot of intimidation. There's a lot of threatening going on. There's a lot of exploitation. They try to underpay them or not pay them at all.

NMN: How did the SF Day Labor Program get started?

RS: It was organized mainly by day laborers, community activists, community-based organizations, and some city allies, and even some merchants. The purpose of the Day Labor Program is to provide a safe and healthy place for workers to find work, access services, and generally empower themselves. The DLP has always supported the worker's right to stand on the street and to work off the street.

Our program has never intended, as one of its primary goals, to get the men off the street. Our task, whether [the day laborers] stand on the street to find work or come to our program to find work, is to make sure that their rights are protected, that they have a space and a way to organize themselves, and that they have a safe way to access services.

NMN: What are the benefits of the program for the laborers?

RS: Our services include job referrals, job training, employment counseling and employment technical assistance. [We offer] service referrals, such as housing and social benefits. We have an onsite medical clinic, English classes, drug and alcohol counseling, mental health counseling, and legal services.

Another benefit that the program provides is a space for the day laborers to come together and network, and basically just to hang out in a safe space. Because, as everyone knows, day laborers are among the most targeted populations – they're targeted by police; they're targeted by neighbors. So the program provides a safe place [for them] to go without being harassed by society.

NMN: What are some examples of what the Day Labor Program has done?

RS: They have set their minimum wage at ten dollars an hour. They decide on the method of job distribution. They decide what political activities they want to involve themselves in, like city issues [such as] anti-displacement. And they support one another in various situations.

NMN: I know that the DLP has held demonstrations in front of some employers' homes to demand workers' rights. Are there legal routes that you take as an organization or is it just [pursued] through demonstrating?

RS: No, we also file legal claims. The DLP is currently a program of La Raza Centro Legal. [Their] employment law staff go to the DLP once a week at least to

give workshops and also to take on new cases for workers who haven't been paid or have been exploited.

NMN: What are the main issues you are dealing with now?

RS: We have a lot of major issues. One is finding jobs for hundreds and hundreds of men each day. That is a huge, huge task... Most of the employers that come to us are contractors and homeowners. And the way the program works is that the employers either contact us or come in person, it's very simple. We don't require anything from the workers. We don't ask for ID, we don't ask for their immigration status, we just ask them to put their name down on the list – and we ask them to respect certain rules. We have rules to maintain order and respect for the program.

NMN: Why has the program had such difficulty renting a space on Cesar Chavez Street?

RS: In my opinion, the main thing that has kept us from moving to Chavez is a minority of neighbors who simply don't want to see the workers on the street and don't [support] the workers' right to stand on the street by having our program there physically. And it's been pretty intense. Just this morning we got yet another hate call, [someone] who said, "Over my dead body will you move here, and if I have to, I will push over your port-a-potties everyday."

We're not talking about complaint calls; we're talking about hate calls. But we're still pushing forward. We believe that we were denied access to a building [3435 Cesar Chavez St.] based on discrimination, so we filed a discrimination complaint with the SF human rights commission and we're in the process of filing a civil lawsuit of discrimination against the building owner, Richard Koch, and his company. We're going to be represented by MALDEF, the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund. At the same time, while we're waging this legal battle, we feel that it's very important for us to continue to pressure City Hall to ensure that we get our building. So the workers are constantly having press conferences, lobbying supervisors, having rallies, circulating petitions. I'm very confident to say that we have the majority of the neighborhood behind us. There is no doubt.

NMN: Isn't there a bigger picture here that some people are missing?

RS: Yes. Day laborers are a product of global economics and exploitation around the world. And it's ludicrous and immoral for people here in San Francisco to want to hide them and to want to try to forget that they are part of this community. And even the desire to pack hundreds of them in a building is unrealistic and it's unfair.

If you are interested in hiring day laborers, call the San Francisco Day Labor Program at (415) 252-5375.



One Worker's Experience

Day laborers talk with a potential employer.
Photo by Margaret Yamasaki

While visiting Renee Saucedo at La Raza Centro Legal, I had the opportunity to speak to one of the participants in the Day Labor Program, Hugo Fonseca. A Mexican national who has been working in San Francisco for three years, Fonseca came here to work because he couldn't support his family with the work he found in Mexico. He told me that work in Mexico is not only "hard to find" but also that "the payment received is not sufficient for living." In the U.S., he said, "you can work, pay rent, and send money home. There's a big difference in how much someone can make here because the economies are so different."

I asked him if he had experienced exploitation by employers in this country firsthand. He told me a story about his brother and a group of other Mexican men who were hired for a day job landscaping in an "elegant" neighborhood. The employer agreed to pay them \$300 for the job, but at the end of the day only gave them \$100. "He said that we were cheap labor," Fonseca said, "and that the work wasn't done well because 'dirty Mexicans' had done [it]."

Fonseca heard about the Day Labor Program through word-of-mouth on Cesar Chavez Street. "When you get a job with the Day Labor Program," he said, "it's different. It's more safe. When you get a job on Cesar Chavez Street [not through the DLP], sometimes, there is no pay. Sometimes people abuse you."

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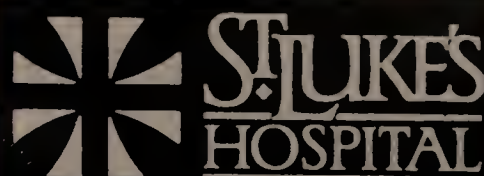


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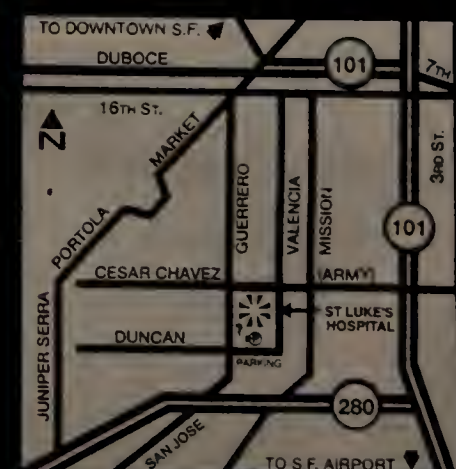
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Blue collar exodus on Folsom Street Auto repair shop owners leave after three year battle

by Victor Miller

In 1998, when the dot-com culture was still transforming the city a group of auto repair businesses, all housed in huge old warehouse building on Folsom Street, were given eviction notices to clear the way for construction of 110 more live/work lofts.

Throughout the Mission and South of Market hundreds of similar blue collar operations were getting the boot and the Planning Commission was giving rubber stamp approval to every live/work project that came before it. But the auto shop guys didn't like getting pushed around.

They joined forces with a now defunct anti-loft, slow growth group called the Committee for Jobs, Arts, and Housing and went to the Planning Commission to stop the owners' live/work project. They argued persuasively for the retention of the 30+ Latino held jobs they provided and the preservation of the neighborhood's working class character. They won.

When the landlord's live/work project was rejected, he lost interest in evicting his rent-paying tenants. Unfortunately he did not lose interest in making a pile of money and sold the ramshackle old building in October 1999 to Raymond and Lorraine Wong for over \$2 million.

The same month a man representing himself as the building manager for the new landlord offered the shop owners new "leases" which he convinced them to sign. The "leases" contained a clause stating the landlord had the right to evict them in 60 days or raise rents. In 60 days the eviction notices promptly appeared.

The shop owners fought back again, enlisting the aid of Eric Quezada of the Mission Anti-displacement Coalition (MAC), Teresa Garcia of the Mission Economic Development Association (MEDA) and Erika Roman, then the Mayor's neighborhood liaison. This was a politically powerful combo but according to Garcia by March of 2000, the absolute summit of the boom, the building was being shown to potential buyers at a price of \$5-6 million.

Long fights like this can be draining to all parties and destabilizing to small businesses. So in the fall of 2000, after battling eviction threats off and on for nearly three years, the pro-auto shop forces decided to call in an attorney to move things along. Within ten weeks of hiring the attorney, the shop owners signed an agreement to leave in exchange for a cash settlement, 25% of which went to pay legal fees.



Left to right in back: Cesar Peralta, Elenin Melara, Herman Melara, Eduardo Melendez. Front row: Lenin Melara, Humberto Espinoza

A bad deal

Some of the businesses at the big garage complex on Folsom were already closed up by the end last month, but the owners and employees who were still around had plenty to say.

Elenin Melara, along with his brothers and his son, operated Quality Auto Repair at 2144 Folsom for 14 1/2 years. His once-secure family enterprise now faces an uncertain future. "I don't know where I'm going yet. Maybe Third Street, maybe Daly City, but a lot of my customers are from around here and a lot of them have been my customers for more than 10 years. I want to relocate somewhere around here in the Mission but now it's just too expensive."

Melara feels he got a raw deal: "Our lawyer did not do well for us. At the last meeting with the owner, we were pressured to make a deal. She told us if we didn't, he might sue us for half a million dollars. What we got was nothing when you have to set up a new business."

Eduardo Melendez, proprietor of Sasha Auto Body for seven years, said he would miss some of the quality-of-life conveniences of both living and working in the same neighborhood. "I've seen the

neighborhood change a lot in the last few years. If I have to move my business out of the city I won't be able to pick my little girl up from school anymore. Melendez was also very unhappy with the settlement arrangement "I think we got set up," he said.

Augusto Cesar Peralta, owner of Smog Check and Solutions at 2140 Folsom expressed a certain amount of pride that they had put up a good fight. "Last year they wanted us out of here in just a few weeks. We at least lasted this long." But Peralta was outraged at the way things have concluded. "Now we're getting letters from our own lawyer telling us we'd better get out. I guess she feels she's got to live up to the contract she signed but she is *our* lawyer."

Peralta has moved to San Bruno at double his previous rent and with no customer base: "I don't know anybody in San Bruno." But there are some things Peralta will not miss about the Folsom Street location and its landlord: "Last week they just cut off the water in the middle of the day without even telling us," he said with disgust.

At least one garage owner has given up trying to be self-employed, put his equipment in storage and is looking to work for someone else after encountering daunting Mission district industrial space rents of \$4-7000 a month.

Humberto Espinoza, who with his son and three other workers operated Beto's Auto Repair 2140 Folsom for eight years, said high rents weren't the only factor forcing them out of the Mission. "These landlords just don't want to rent to auto body shops. They want to rent to offices." Espinoza also worried about his younger customers. "Some of these kids couldn't afford the prices we'd have to charge if we stayed here and paid these rents. But also while we were here we were setting an example for these kids. We had our own shops and we were doing good professional work. Now what do they have as examples? Janitors?"

It's ironic that these shop owners should have won one eviction fight when the economic forces were so much against them, only to lose another now the loft and office boom has all but petered out. When you get beyond the arcane planning codes and obscurely worded ballot propositions, the struggle to maintain the Mission's working class character is simply about seeing guys like this remain part of our community.

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Holden (no relation) vs. Holden

Dear Editor,

Joan Holden (no relation), in her May piece titled "Unfair Return", proffers the question on Prop H repair costs restrictions: "how do we get out of it?" I would ask — how did we get INTO it??

Her unfortunate experience of vituperative admonishments from the more extreme elements, while unsettling, is par for the course (remember how 'we' were?)

Ms Holden chastises me in not wishing to extend rent control — very well. How about extension to all NEW rental units, so the rules are known in advance, and which keeps past promises, in the interest of integrity. I would then join you in extending that measure to tenants and activists.

"Fairness"? It may be unfair to ask tenants to pay solely to increase landlord property values. But is it unfair to ask them to pay for improvements that directly benefit their living environments (more electric outlets, better water pressure, safer living quarters, even greater aesthetic beauty)? Why shouldn't the financially capable contribute to needed repairs (and, despite Randy Shaw's claim that "tenants can't afford (it)", many in SF can).

Mr Shaw, one of the architects of Prop H (at least one of two purported assassins of the Ammiano-brokered compromise), can promote or defend rent controls all he wants — his real estate empire (TNDC), reportedly over 800 units, is largely Rent Control free.

But lets gets to the crux of what Prop H was really about — impossible increases for low income renters. I have always believed that IS an issue of fairness. Pass-thru protections did need changes. However, to gerrymander prosperous renters into Prop H, jsut to (falsely) insure political victory — and to stick it to property owners — is shameful. Does Randy really believe that SF voters would reject a proposal to protect low income workers, seniors, and disabled only? I don't. The only conclusion I can then draw is that unfairness was 'exactly' the name of 'his' game. (I'll dismiss speculations that his .org has designs on those small properties that WILL be forced to sell as a result of these restrictions).

Joan was right on. Lets get back to crafting a compromise that protects the vulnerable, and supports those who maintain our older housing stock (and who don't get free gov't grants to pay for same) to do so. Sound fair?

Sincerely, Peter Holden

Eau de third world

Editor:

The South West corner of 24th & Fair Oaks has a perpetual spring of raw sewage flowing 10 feet into a storm sewer. This is across the street from a catholic school.

The City has been aware of this for some months and has done nothing.

Is the health of our children treated so cavalierly? Are we a third world country? When will this be fixed?

James Keefer

Raise sidewalk parking fines

Editor,

Recently I was walking my bicycle

Letters to the Editor

down a busy street in my neighborhood.

There must have been a party nearby because cars were parked horizontally, bumper to bumper, on the sidewalk. I exchanged glances with some men who were weaving around the cars and walked my bike out into the street. From the street, I could see a frail, elderly woman bent over a walker.

When I caught up to her, I asked her if she had had to maneuver around the cars. She had, but I don't know how she did so, considering the tight squeeze in back of us. I was furious and called the Department of Parking and Traffic.

Within minutes, an officer was outside the home rerouting the sidewalk traffic. "The mayor is serious!" he barked. The car owners moved their cars. They circled the blocks - and then one slid his truck back onto the sidewalk when the officer had left. After all, the fine for sidewalk parking is only \$25 - a joke when you compare that to jaywalking, \$77; blocking a driveway, starting at \$189; a MUNI proof-of-purchase violation, starting at \$76; or eating on BART, \$76.

The Parking and Traffic Commission has recently voted to recommend that the sidewalk-parking fine be raised to \$50.

Because the Department of Parking and Traffic cannot adequately enforce the sidewalk parking laws (the California Vehicle Code, Section 22500, states that parking "on any portion of the sidewalk, or with the body of the vehicle extending over any portion of the sidewalk" is illegal), Walk San Francisco, the pedestrian-advocacy organization, recommends that the mayor and the board of supervisors raise the fine immediately to \$50 and to \$100, the maximum permitted by state law, over a two-year period.

This will give people time clean out their garages or find other legal places to park their cars. In addition, the recent 3-2 vote by members of the commission recommending that the supervisors seek waivers from the state for vertical sidewalk parking was an unwise move.

A blind person with a white cane who taps beneath car bumpers without touching any car part will walk into cars repeatedly.

Susan Vaughan Member, Walk San Francisco

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LATE START SUMMER 2001 CREDIT CLASSES

COURSE	CRN#	DAY	TIME	BEGIN/END	SITE
Announcing & Performance	50948	MTWTh	2:30 - 5:30 p.m.	6/25 - 7/19/01	106 Bartlett, 103
Asian Amer Exp Since 1820	50021	MTWThF	9:00 - 11:30 a.m.	6/25 - 7/20/01	ART 303
Asian Amer Exp Since 1820	50335	MTWThF	8:00 - 10:30 a.m.	6/25 - 7/20/01	ARTX 188
Asian Amer Exp Since 1820	50336	MTW	6:00 - 9:30 p.m.	6/25 - 7/25/01	ARTX 188
Asian Amer Exp Since 1820	50549	MTWThF	7:30 - 10:00 a.m.	6/25 - 7/20/01	SCIE 302
Asian Amer Exp Since 1820	50551	MTWThF	1:00 - 3:30 p.m.	6/25 - 7/20/01	SCIE 302
Asian Amer Exp Since 1820	50552	TWTh	6:00 - 9:30 p.m.	6/26 - 7/26/01	SCIE 100
Asian Amer Exp Since 1820	50669	MTWThF	10:30 - 1:00 p.m.	6/25 - 7/20/01	SCIE 108
Assertive Behavior	50704	MTWThF	11:10 - 1:10 p.m.	7/9 - 7/20/01	8ATL 553
Charac Dev & Scene Acting	50933	TTh	6:00 - 9:45 p.m.	6/26 - 7/26/01	1220 Noe, 301
College Success	50558	MTWThF	10:30 - 1 p.m.	6/25 - 7/20/01	SCIE 303
College Success	50929	MTWThF	8:00 - 10:30 a.m.	6/25 - 7/20/01	SCIE 303
Dev Web Sites - Front Page	50777	MTTh	5:00 - 9:30 p.m.	7/2 - 7/26/01	800 Mission, 516
Digital Media Skills	50947	MTWTh	2:30 - 5:30 p.m.	6/25 - 7/19/01	ARTX 168
Ecology, GG Nat. Rec Area	50910	W	6:30 - 9:30 p.m.	7/18 - 7/22/01	SCIE 335
Elementary French	50923	MTWThF	8:00 - 10:45 a.m.	6/25 - 7/20/01	8NGL 212
Elementary German	50927	MTWThF	9:00 - 11:45 a.m.	6/25 - 7/20/01	8NGL 221
Elementary Italian	50926	MTWThF	9:00 - 11:45 a.m.	6/25 - 7/20/01	8NGL 220
Elementary Japanese	50924	MTWThF	9:00 - 11:45 a.m.	6/25 - 7/20/01	8NGL 204
Elementary Spanish	50925	MTWThF	8:00 - 10:45 a.m.	6/25 - 7/20/01	ARTX 266
E-Mail	50730	TTh	6:00 - 8:30 p.m.	7/5 - 7/26/01	SCIE 215
Filipino American Comm	50020	MTWThF	9:00 - 11:30 a.m.	6/25 - 7/20/01	8NGL 304
General Psychology	50006	MTWThF	9:00 - 11:30 a.m.	6/25 - 7/20/01	CLOU 257
General Psychology	50012	MTWThF	11:30 - 2:00 p.m.	6/25 - 7/20/01	CLOU 257
Habitat Restor Field Studies	50908	W	6:30 - 9:30 p.m.	7/11 - 7/15/01	SCIE 335
Hip-Hop Dance	50918	MTWThF	8:00 - 10:00 a.m.	7/2 - 7/20/01	NGYM, STUD
Holistic Health Practices	50865	MTWTh	11:00 - 2:30 p.m.	6/25 - 7/19/01	CLOU 330
Latin Amer Folk Dance	50914	MTWThF	11:45 - 2:00 p.m.	7/2 - 7/20/01	NGYM, NGYM
Mandarin for Chinese Speak	50922	MTWThF	8:00 - 10:45 a.m.	6/25 - 7/20/01	8NGL 211
Multimedia Content & Form	50935	MTW	2:00 - 5:45 p.m.	6/25 - 7/20/01	ARTX 260
Paramedic Theory - Cardiac	50921	MF	8:00 - 4:30 p.m.	7/9 - 8/3/01	PRESIDIO
Paramedic Theory	50920	MF	8:00 - 4:30 p.m.	6/25 - 7/6/01	PRESIDIO
Psych of Shyness/Self Esteem	50963	MTWThF	9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	7/9 - 7/20/01	8NGL 3128
Review of English Grammar	50942	MTWThF	11:30 - 2:00 p.m.	6/25 - 7/20/01	ARTX 266
Router Networking Tech	50888	MTWTh	9 - 12N; 1 - 4 p.m.	7/2 - 7/16/01	SCIE 37
Tennis (8eg.)	50603	MTWThF	10:50 - 1:00 p.m.	7/2 - 7/20/01	SGYM, CRTS
World Wide Web	50384	MTWThF	2:00 - 3:30 p.m.	6/27 - 7/13/01	8ATL 451
Yoga (8eg.)	50270	MTWThF	2:00 - 4:15 p.m.	7/2 - 7/20/01	NGYM, STUD
Yoga (Interm.)	50972	MTWThF	2:00 - 4:15 p.m.	7/1 - 7/20/01	NGYM, STUD

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Community tells city youth violence and public health are top priorities

Commentary by Victor Miller

Mission residents had their say about the city's budget at a community hearing held on May 23rd at George Moscone School. The session was chaired by District 9 Supervisor Tom Ammiano with Supervisors Matt Gonzalez, Aaron Peskin and Mark Leno also in attendance, as well as City Treasurer Susan Leal, Controller Ed Harrington, budget analyst Harvey Rose and a number of representatives from city departments. Over a hundred people showed up to put in their two cents worth in the hopes it would come back to them or their favored projects multiplied like Biblical loaves and fishes.

In the past, San Francisco has gone through alternating phases regarding the democracy of money and the problems of the economically disenfranchised. When there is a shortfall the politicians are quick to express their views: plans are drawn up and items are prioritized; then everybody bemoans the fact there's no money for all these wonderful ideas. When the city is cash-rich, as during the first four years of Willie Brown's administration, democracy shrivels; our solons hide out, emerging only to admonish us that social problems do not go away simply by throwing money at them. The reason for this is that every politician who is beholden to special interests (and that's nearly all of them) lives in fear that poor people will improve their lot and take an interest in such things as schools, bus service and voting. Pretending to help them looks good; actually helping them is dangerous.

The hearing at George Moscone School occurred during an interphase, a gray area during which the city is not doing as well as it appeared to be during the dot-com madness, but not so badly that the supervisors et al. can plead empty pockets as an excuse for unresponsiveness. And we have a newly and districtly elected board, still relatively sincere in its intent to do the right thing, so maybe this wasn't the usual dog and pony show. The speakers were, in general, impassioned, and acted as if there was real chance of getting what they were asking for. The supes and the other city officials pretty much kept their game faces on.

Youth and violence

The issues involving youth, especially youth violence, turned out to be the biggest concerns. There were more speakers on this topic than any other. Raul Martinez, whose sister was murdered by gang members in April (see story on page one), testified that 127 young people have died from gang violence in the last decade. Referring to a previous speaker who had advised the city spend \$85,000 for enforcement of laws regarding dogs, Martinez urged the supervisors not to put "dog rights over human rights." Martinez said gang violence had created a "sense of urgency and panic in the community," adding "The Mission has never been like this." As did a number of other speakers, Martinez recommended the city fund community groups to develop a comprehensive strategy to combat gang violence. Supervisor Ammiano has secured \$100,000 in city money for this purpose.

Ray Balberon, coordinator of Calles, the Mission's on-the-street gang prevention program, asked for money for Calles' safe haven program for young people targeted by gangs. Balberon also challenged the city officials to "Join us in a vigil and march through the Latino and African American communities." Another speaker, Jose Luis Pavon, stressed that "Young people on the streets are not criminals."

Pavon pointed out that some promises made by the city regarding youth programs had never been kept, mentioning specifically John O'Connell High School (now John O'Connell School of Technology) which has still not been completely rebuilt after suffering earthquake damage in 1989. Pavon's anger over O'Connell's problems was certainly on the mark, in light of recent admissions by School Superintendent Ackerman that school construction money had been illegally diverted to pay the salaries of high priced consultants and unqualified administrators.

Other speakers, while not specifically mentioning gangs, made appeals for various unfunded or underfunded youth recreational and educational programs. At least one person did not like the established hat-in-hand approach for raising funds, "I just get so upset when the school district has to beg the city for money," said teacher Linda Benes.

Public health

A second major area of concern was health care. SF General Hospital, a lifeline for many Mission residents, is once again in serious financial trouble. Dr. Fine of SF General told the supervisors the hospital needs the \$5 million that was cut out of the budget just to maintain the current level of services. Fine said, "The decrease in revenues is an attack on poor and working class people. The effects are devastating on care and treatment."

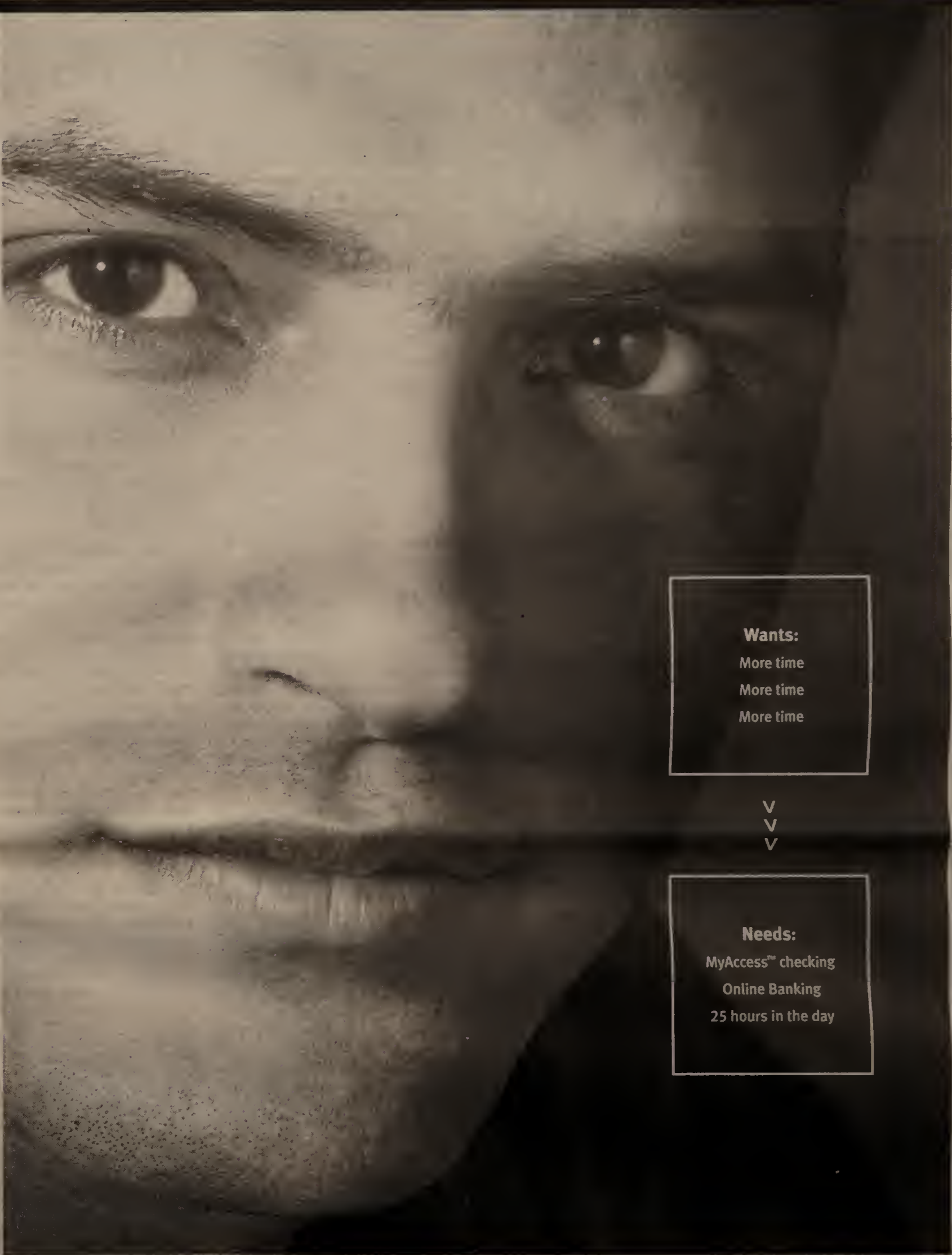
Monique Zeducci of the Department of Public Health responded that the city was looking for additional dollars to hire more doctors and nurses but insisted, "Demand at General exceeds what can be supplied. The overall goal is to expand community-based services to avoid hospitalization and reduce length of stay."

This type of belt-tightening answer was not what most people wanted to hear. "A great city does not feel inclined to maintain the health of the people who live in it. What we're really talking about here is economic apartheid: people who are poor just aren't worth the money needed to save them," said Mission resident Fran Taylor.

The underclass

Other speakers touched on the needs of immigrants and the struggle of day laborers in particular. Speaking on what is becoming recognized as a permanent underclass of homeless and working poor in the city, Valerie Tullier told the supervisors that in considering budget items, "Ask yourselves: is this serving a disenfranchised segment of the population? Are the programs relevant and appropriate?" Tullier advised the supervisors to consider first and foremost the "minimum human rights" of their constituents: Do they have food? Do they have housing? Do they have education? Do they have employment?"

What was surprising about this hearing was the relatively minor attention given to the issues of gentrification and affordable housing. Had it taken place a year ago, these two concerns would have predominated. But this was in a sense the first town hall style meeting of the Mission community since the dot-com drunk wore off. Through the blariness of hangover vision, a sad old landscape is coming into focus. The rich are richer, the poor are poorer and, as always, still with us. Young people are still being given a raw deal, to which they respond in a frightening manner. We know this stuff. We've known it for a long time but were distracted for a while by the technomessianism of silicon snake oil. Last fall, neighborhoods across the city elected one of their own who claimed to know this stuff too and promised to make it all better. This is their chance.



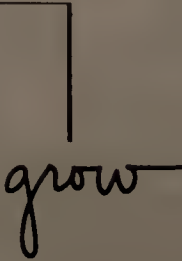
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Guest Opinion

Why can't San Francisco be independent?

With the election of George W. Bush it would seem we have run out of options. We're stuck with an endless spiral of national leaders like Nixon, Reagan, Ford, Bush and now another Bush. We seem to be stuck. With hundreds of millions of dollars going into national political campaigns, it doesn't look like anything is going to change.

However, we still have some options. One is to enact airtight campaign finance reform to eliminate influence peddling in government. Another is to establish a public information network that is not operated by corporate boards but is of the people, by the people and for the people (not of profit, by profit and for profit).

So what's wrong with us? One option we should have considered long ago - though it may at first sight seem far-fetched, if not fantastic, is that we establish the sovereign City-State of San Francisco.

An independent San Francisco in the spirit of Venice, Florence and ancient Athens. A crazy idea? A wild fantasy? A silly joke? Not so!

If George Bush can lead us then why can't we lead ourselves? Would we ever get anything better?

How long should the interests of San Francisco conflict with those of Washington before we start deciding it's time to go our own way? The reforms which will never happen in Washington could happen here.

After all, the era of dinosaur nation-empire should be over and the time of mini-nations with superb hands-on government, social justice, civil liberties, person-to-person politics, cultural diversity, universal economic opportunity and impeccable human rights should begin. Mini-nations with EU style alliances. We don't need to march to the old drumbeat.

We need a government independent of corporations as many nations realized long ago they must be independent of the church.

If government is to be built on anything it should be built on the principle that the people are sovereign. People are equal (equal in fact, not merely on paper). Voters own the government.

Here in San Francisco thousands of men and women beg in the streets for spare change and sleep in doorways. They

sleep on bank doorsteps and at the foot of gleaming office towers.

We have a war on drugs and treat drug users like terrorists but the biggest killer of all has been cigarettes, perfectly legal and glamorized in ads, billboards and big budget Hollywood films.

Why does Washington want to tell women that they should not have reproductive control over their own bodies? Why are executions in vogue again? Why do gay men serve and die in the American military but are told to not publicly admit they are gay? Why don't we have comprehensive health care like so many countries in Europe? Why has commercial television taken center stage in our lives but we have no control over it? Why are the gas and electric companies running amok with no effort in Washington to stop them?

Something has gone terribly wrong.

Since the 1940's, the United States has spent over \$6 trillion on the development, manufacture and maintenance of its atomic bomb arsenal. That's not world leadership it's a crime against humanity.

In India the average unskilled worker earns \$1 per day. In fact, in 48 nations the per-capita income is \$1 per day or less.

Last year the United States spent some \$300 billion on its military. It has 7,500 atomic warheads and 110 submarines. Some Texans were goofing around in one recently and sank a Japanese boat. Meanwhile, the United Nations representing 185 member nations had a total annual budget close to \$3 billion—one percent of the budget of the U. S. military. The United Nations had one tenth of what was spent by the C.I.A. and other American intelligence organizations. Yet the United States refused to pay its United Nations bill because, it complained, its share was too big.

This is our democracy in action. We San Franciscans should be sending our defense money to the United Nations, which really does defend peace. The Pentagon and U.N. should swap budgets. (If the U.N. could be more democratic).

The truth is that San Francisco, and all of California, never participated in the American Revolution. California was not one of the thirteen English colonies. We were invaded from the East in 1848. "Manifest Destiny" was the philosophy which created the American empire west of the Mississippi. The war America provoked with Mexico cost that nation half its territory. Yet we have the nerve to call

Mexicans without American papers "illegal aliens".

Today we still suffer subjugation from the East. We are being overrun by right wing, Christian, business, military values as our land was overrun by armies from the East in 1848.

In the 2000 national election we were overrun by a media blitz which cost hundreds of millions of dollars. Hundreds of millions worth of additional free coverage was given to candidates by the same networks that profited so much from campaign spending.

What do you suppose would have happened if Ralph Nader and the Green Party could have spent \$200 million?

Why is free choice so expensive?

Americans have always loved to talk about freedom, even during the years of slavery. When women couldn't vote Americans still talked about equality.

Every administration talks about equal job and educational opportunity but our ghettos fill up with people who have been locked out.

There never was an American president who didn't talk about peace but the United States has marched from war to war. Wars justify all the money that we spend. With America, the wars, the bullying and the spending will never end.

Human beings are born killers. It was true of Cro-Magnon Man and it's just as true for us. We are predators. What was once done with knives and swords is now accomplished with monetary policy: the subjugation of foreign peoples. Every powerful empire and every mighty nation was built upon killing, plunder and conquest. But with the biological and nuclear weapons that we have now we are on a path that will lead to only one thing: extinction. Like other species before us.

Instead of that, why don't we just get out of the Bushes once and for all and take a new direction? Govern ourselves. Why can't San Francisco have its independence?

S.S.H. - A citizen of San Francisco

If you agree with these ideas then copy this and pass it around. Think of a next step to help San Francisco win freedom.

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Loco Bloco Photo by Michael Erik Craig p13

Carnaval Grand Prize winners 2001, the inside story

by Sandra Vivanco

Considering I spent ten years rehearsing, choreographing, performing and designing Carnaval contingents in San Francisco, New York and Japan before opening my architecture firm, it was natural to explore the visual and spatial opportunities of this urban phenomenon in an academic setting. Last spring, after enlisting the theater and fabrication expertise of Lalo Cervantes, we embarked on an ambitious project fueled by our shared commitment to community based collaborations.

Carnaval was examined as a democratic art form and international popular practice against a backdrop of global exchange, migratory patterns, transnational representation modes and their hybrid manifestation in the culture of San Francisco. Originally a pre-Lent ritual, Carnaval has had its most theatrical and large scale impact in the Americas.

As an example of how Catholicism adopted pre-Christian agrarian traditions, the cultural rituals around Carnaval present fertile ground for the study of syncretism, miscegenation and social inversions such as day/night, sacred/profane, high/low (both in terms of art and class), real/imagined, and public/private (identity and behavior).

Our students at California College of Arts and Crafts were paired up with local performing troupes. Selected on the basis of their cultural and political agenda, we favored organizations working with urban youth such as ABADA Capoeira, Bay View Opera House, Buena Vista Elementary School, and Loco Bloco. The class collaborated in the design and fabrication of spectacle scale performance objects and culminated with Carnaval itself, offering students the unique opportunity to witness their artistic works unfold in real time and space.

This multidisciplinary studio, partially funded by the CCAC Center for Art and Public Life, gained national academic recognition - through a curriculum award by the American Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture - and local notoriety - the contingent formed by Loco Bloco and ABADA Capoeira is the Grand Prize winner for Carnaval 2001.

As we arrived on 14th and Harrison last Sunday after the parade, enthusiasm still running high, I was asked by many: Are we doing this again next year?

Sandra Vivanco is CCAC Assistant Professor of Architecture and Ethnic Studies, she can be contacted at sandravivanco@hotmail.com

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CIVIC STENCH

by Hank Hyena

The next district attorney will be...?

Rumor has it that Terence Hallinan will NOT be seeking a third term as SF District Attorney, much to my relief (check out my nasty February column). Instead of continuing to muddle up his job there, he will either run for Mayor instead, or devote himself entirely to his true passion — drinking whiskey. So the question is: who's boning up to run for this chief lawmaker slot, vacant in 2003? Scads of names are being suggested; I've listed them below with their qualifications plus scandals & dirt that should besmirch their reputations:

Bill Fazio: Ho hum, it might be deja vu all over again if this two-time loser decides to stumble into the contest again — he narrowly lost squeakers to Hallinan in their dirty campaign battles of 1995 and 1999.

Truth is, Fazio would be ensconced in the top-cop position already if the pro-Hallinan Fang family hadn't ruthlessly slandered him in the SF Independent (yeah, some folks actually read that rag.) The sharp-toothed media tycoons relentlessly trashed Fazio in abundant misleading articles, even printing absurd allegations that Fazio had ties to the MAFIA!

Their hysterical suggestion that he was a West Coast Tony Soprano was hogwash, of course, but Fazio didn't deserve anyone's vote anyway — his tough-guy, law & order prosecutorial stance from the center-right doesn't jibe with the average San Franciscan's liberal tolerance.

Is there authentic dirt in Bill's bio? Yeah, there is, truckloads full of garbage — but it doesn't matter anyway because my hunch is that he won't submit himself to a third public humiliation. Cynical voters are eager for fresh faces: anyone new, please! Anyone but Bill.

Matt Gonzalez: This bright, boyish man popped out of his public defender's office in 1999 to challenge Hallinan as a "true progressive." Eventually capturing 11 per cent of the votes, he ricocheted off this victory-in-defeat to get elected District Five Supervisor.

Today he is regarded by his admirers as a fearless, idealistic go-getter who is dismantling the Brown-Burton machine, and staying emotionally cool when he's attacked. Although Gonzalez is rabidly loathed and feared by moderates & conservatives who view him as a communist egghead, the unanimous opinion is that he is terribly smart and should never be underestimated.

Possible drawbacks: 1) His Green Party membership solidifies him as the darling of the left, but it might cripple him in a DA race if he's regarded as too-soft-on-crime. 2) Even amongst his ideological allies, he is occasionally regarded as an overly-ambitious and opportunistic poseur who is more interested in his career than in his constituents. 3) Many of his supporters believe he is invaluable on the Supe Board; they'll advise him to remain there until forced out by term limits.

James Hammer: A rising star! He's a media magnet right now as the articulate, photogenic co-prosecutor in the sensational trial that seeks to put notorious Killer Dog owners Robert Noel & Marjorie Knoller behind bars for the slaying of Diane Whipple. If he successfully convicts these idiotic goons, every mutt-hater in town will vote for him (I'd be included.) Hammer is also perfectly positioned for Hallinan's job; he's currently Assistant District Attorney.

Various intriguing facts about JH make him enormously appealing: as a Jesuit seminarian, he almost became a priest (ala Jerry Brown), he's gay, and out, and proud about it (which is more than we can say for Jerry Brown), he's from a working class background — his father was a MUNI driver, for crissakes!, and, last but not least, he used to nobly labor for the rights of migrant farm workers in the South Peninsula.

All of this adds up to an original press package that will entice the media to slobber happily all over him. Only problem is — he's expressed absolutely no interest in the DA job and he appears so ethical he might choose to eternally avoid the filthy business of politics.

Kimberley Guilfoyle: This sexy former Victoria Secrets lingerie model (and Macy's, too!) who is engaged to Supe Gavin Newsom is currently in the public eye for the above-mentioned two reasons, plus she's co-prosecuting the Whipple case with Hammer.

This is obviously a cup full of celebrity opportunities, but is this enough to qualify her as our DA? Detractors hiss that she really isn't stacked with enough relevant experience, but if she performs well against Noel & Knoller this criticism will be nullified.

And if she chooses to run, Ms. Guilfoyle, aka "Kimba," will find oodles of money donated to her campaign because she's a Pacific Heights socialite with a Rolodex full of filthy-rich friends.

My opinion is that her DA odds will rise and fall with beau Newsom's decisions — if he runs for Mayor, will voters want to elect his bedmate too the city's second most powerful position? Isn't that just too much power centralized on one expensive mattress? Do we need a gorgeous royal couple to reign over us? I don't think so...

Kamala Harris: This ex-lover of Willie Brown (their romance ended in 1995) was the Deputy District Attorney of Alameda County before Hallinan moved her across the Bay into her current SF Deputy City Attorney position.

Her experience qualifies her, plus she's well-connected to the Machine due to the committed support of Da Mayor (she gave him this nickname), his partner-in-graft, John Burton, and their long list of deep-pocketed high-society cronies.

Two details hamper the ascension of KH into the DA's office. 1) Most voters presently loathe her old boyfriend. "Friends of Willie" got killed in the ballot booth in the last election, and the fervor against him and all of his pals seems to rise with every new scandal leveled against him. 2) Rumors suggest that Ms. Harris is far more interested in another post — that of City Attorney, a spot held for twenty-three years by Louise Renne, who has recently announced her retirement.

Hate my opinions? send email to "hh@sfbayrevolution.org"

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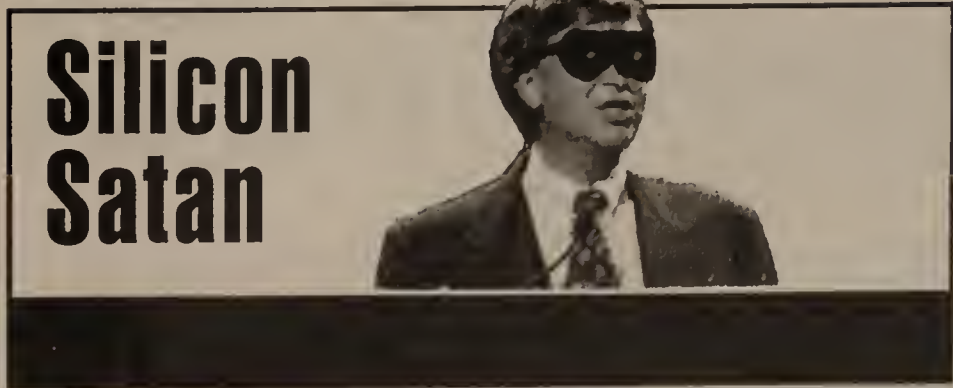
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WE MUST CHALLENGE PEOPLE TO EMPOWER THEMSELVES

One of the hallmarks of an experienced corporate leader is his optimistic vision, from which he challenges his subordinates to resist defeatism and negativity and thus empower themselves to succeed. I was reminded of this recently, when I had to let go an older employee who, unfortunately, was not a very good team-player, and just couldn't gel with the energetic, young work-environment that I have tasked myself with building.

Despite his initial tendency to view the loss of his livelihood in the worst possible light, tearfully obsessing over his mortgage and his wife's medical bills, I really think I was able to help him see the bigger—and brighter—picture: explaining how in today's fast-paced and fluid job market, workers can view themselves more as entrepreneurs, embracing change and seizing opportunity wherever it presents itself—even if in the guise of a pink slip.

So it was with no small amount of satisfaction that I discovered that our little talk indeed seemed to have inspired him to make the best of his situation and begin an exciting career in the service sector—when I ran into him in his new professional capacity the other day, while ordering myself a Big Mac and fries from a local drive-thru.

Of course, teaching the rudiments of self-reliance to this lacrimose loser was a severe test of my patience. For I strongly believe that no misfortune—even the most debilitating—should be used as an excuse to wallow in self-pity and demand special treatment. Yet is it at all surprising that our fellow citizens are so prone to behave in this manner, when Big Government persists in discouraging anyone who has to cope with any kind of problem from rising above his circumstances and standing on his own two feet? Take, for example, state-mandated parking privileges for the disabled. Few things are more heart-rending than these blue-paint bars on the curb,

which so cruelly imprison the wheelchair-bound in the dungeon of our low expectations, signalling to them that it's OK to jump to the front of the line, to take the easy way out. Must we presume, just because a person suffers from, say, brittle bones, that we have the right to encourage him to be spineless?

Again and again, though, we refuse to speak up when society's weaker elements, rather than doing anything to change their situation for the better, sit around and wait for others to help them. The press coverage of California's power crisis has been particularly irresponsible in this regard, dragging the reputations of PG&E, Enron and some other very decent companies through the mud, just because one or two old people will die—at most a few months earlier than they would have done anyway—from heat exhaustion this summer when the air conditioning goes off.

Yet no-one ever asks why it is that these superannuated couch-slugs continue to sit in front of their TV sets when the blackouts roll, and do not instead take control of their lives, unpeel their boney bottoms from their plastic-covered furniture, and go outside to enjoy the sunny weather. Professor Alzheimer himself would be hard-pressed to explain their shiftless stupidity: staring for hours at the dead screen—as if attempting, through some senile sorcery, to will their electronic companion back to life—and thus simply neglecting to notice that they are being broiled alive.

Clearly, these wrinkly rocking-chair potatoes, parking-spot privilegees and all the rest of the "disadvantaged" would do well to learn from the example of our CEO-president, who is without a doubt a superb role model for anyone feeling helpless in the face of difficult circumstances. For who could forget how, after last November's election, even though his opponent was hundreds of thousands of votes ahead, George W. Bush refused to allow our democracy to be abandoned to the lowest common denominator, and instead, ably leveraging his support network of family and friends, empowered himself to achieve his dreams?

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MEDA



MISSION DISTRICT (CALENDAR

Calendar composed by Josie Mattson

1 FRIDAY

Live from Chiapas – *A Storm from the Mountain*, a new film covering the Zapatistas' march from Chiapas to Mexico City, documents their activities during February and March 2001. Also included are guest speakers Nancy Charaga and Renee Saucedo, and a travelling photography exhibit. Artist's Television Access, 992 Valencia St., 7pm, \$5. 546-6334.

People, places, things? – A new artshow opens at Badlands by the name of *Shelters/Charts/Territories*, involving light structures, diagrams, and ceramic sculptures. Balazo Mission Badlands Gallery, 2811 Mission St., 8pm-midnight, \$3-\$5. 920-0896.

Uncategorizable – It's not quite jazz, tripphop, drum n' bass, or electro-acoustic, but somehow all of them together. Revisit, the young trumpeter from Paris, performs tonight following his 2nd U.S. release. Bruno's, 2389 Mission St., 9:45pm, \$7. 648-7701.

2 SATURDAY

10 years of queer Latino art – Reception for "Sin Fronteras" (Without Walls), a collection of work by the QueLACo group, featuring Tango dancer Jose Navarrete. All art is for sale. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission St., 7-9pm, \$5. 821-1155.

End of year celebration – The Mission Cultural Center presents an exhibition of student artwork and performances showcasing dances of all styles: Capoeira, Salsa, Danza Azteca, Afro Brazilian, Merengue, Tango, and more. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission St., 7-9pm, free. 821-1155.

3 SUNDAY

The newest in new – A showcase for talented youth with some original compositions by students in their year-end performance of chamber music and large ensemble pieces. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St., 1 pm, free. 647-6015.

4 MONDAY

Noh music is good music – A workshop to learn the music and instruments from Noh by musician Richard Emmert, including vocal calls, Nohkan (flute) and Kotsuzumi (shoulder drum). Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa St., 4:30-6:30 pm, \$25. 621-0507.

5 TUESDAY

Windians – Learn Native American flute at a workshop with Christine Madden and Dave Loo. Bring your flute if you have one. Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa St., 4:30-6:30 pm, \$25. 621-0507.

Double reading – John Nichols, author of the new novel *The Voice of the Butterfly*, about an aging hippie taking on one last cause, and Summer Wood, author of *Arroyo*, the story of a burned-out blues singer seeking solace in New Mexico. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St., 7:30pm, free. 282-9246.

6 WEDNESDAY

Some enchanting evening – Learn both Northern and Southern styles as well as some Native American chanting from a Colorado native. Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa St., 4:30-6:30, \$25. 621-0507.

Direct from Tokyo – Noh noh Nomura – Masashi Nomura, a Tokyo Noh performer gives a workshop on Noh dance and song (shimai and utai). Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa St., 4:30-6:30 pm, \$25. 621-0507.

8 FRIDAY

Kiss my apocalypse – Artists-in-residence Ghost Town present *The Queen's Rain*, a multi-media, surrealistic play about love amidst social, political, and religious apocalypse. Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission St., 8pm, \$5-\$10. 554-0502.

Leapin' Limans – Watch the cross-cultures of 19th Century Lima, Peru come to life through dance and music in *Recu Tecu*, a new performance by Afro-Peruvian group De Rompe y Raja. ODC Theater, 3153 17th St., 8pm, \$15. 863-9834. Also on the 9th.

9 SATURDAY

There's no business like Noh business – *Crazy Horse*, a musical play fusing Native American aesthetics with Japanese Noh theater form shows at Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa St., 8:00 pm, \$10-\$15. 621-7978.

Art in every sense – Southern Exposure hosts *Synthesesthesia*, its annual fundraising auction of over 100 artists' work, with food and drinks from local establishments, ambient DJs, tactile healers, butoh dancers, and scents of Demeter Fragrances. Southern Exposure at Project Artaud, 401 Alabama St., 6-11pm, \$25 in advance. 863-2141.

Cartoon Lit 101 – Siron Norris, whose murals decorate the corner of Bryant and 20th, holds a reception for the first solo show of his art which he's termed "Cartoon Literalism": innocent yet hostile, simple yet duplicitous. Culture Cache Gallery, 1800 Bryant St. #104, 7-11 pm, free. 642-2360.

10 SUNDAY

Revising Butoh – Akira Kasai of Tokyo performs his shocking version of Butoh dance, which aims to change the traditionally slow negation process of Butoh into an affirmation of life and energy. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St., 8pm, \$25. 621-7797. Also on the 9th.

11 MONDAY

Help end domestic violence – The Riley Center starts its training program of new volunteers to help the crisis line for battered women and children. Spanish bilingual especially needed. Through July 7th. The Riley Center, Women's Building, 3543 18th St., 6-9 pm. For more info call Delilah at 552-2943.

12 TUESDAY

St. Luke's at the crossroads – Public hearing on the continuing crisis at St. Luke's Hospital. Basement auditorium of the California State Building 350 Mac Allister Street, 10am.

Chicana filmmaking – A discussion of a new book about Chicana filmmaker Lourdes Portillo that gives an insider's view of independent film, by the filmmaker herself and the book's editor, author Rosa Linda Fregoso. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St., 7:30 pm, free. 282-9246.

13 WEDNESDAY

Did you ever finish Ulysses? – You have a second chance. Michael Rosenthal of Modern Times tells you how to get through Joyce's book in a lecture that kicks off a reading group starting the following week. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St., 7:30 pm, free. 282-9246.

14 THURSDAY

Literotica – Ian Phillips, whose naughty writing is for every fan of literary filth and twisted love, celebrates the launch of his new book *See Dick Deconstruct*. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St., 7:30 pm, free. 282-9246.

15 FRIDAY

Masterpiece a minute – Southern Exposure holds "Post-Postcard 5," a live drawing event where artists start with the same materials and compete against the clock to create works of art on paper which will immediately go up for auction with a price cap of \$40. Southern Exposure, 401 Alabama St., 6-10 pm, free. 863-2141.

South American poetry – Hector Ahumada reads his poems tonight with Alejandro Murguia. Cafe La Boheme, 3318 24th St., 8 pm, free. He'll also be performing tomorrow night with Alfonso Texidor at Cafe Valencia, 1109 Valencia St., Saturday the 16th, 9 pm, free.

16 SATURDAY

Party for the parks – Friends of Recreation & Parks is holding its 30th Birthday Bash with games, composting demonstrations, cake, T-shirts, and other open-space-loving fun. Sharon Meadows, 11am-3 pm, free. Call 750-5441, or go to www.sfparks.com.

In the wind – The urban words and sounds of Wordwind Chorus, a spoken word/ jazz/ freestyle group appearing with the Lewis Jordan-George Sama duo. New College of California, 777 Valencia St., 8 pm, free. 437-3400.

17 SUNDAY

Broke? Free baroque – Shirley Wong-Frentzel's Annual Baroque Hour, with performances by Community Music Center students and faculty of Bach, Haydn, Purcell, Henry VIII, and Fasch. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St., 4 pm, free. 647-6015.

18 MONDAY

Rohmer's roaming on – Children's Book Press, a pioneer in multicultural and bilingual literature for children, is holding a celebration and tribute to its founder, Harriet Rohmer, who is moving on to new work. With food and drinks, live music, and entertainment. Children's Book Press, 2211 Mission St., 6-9 pm, free. 821-3080.

19 TUESDAY

Sax in the city – London saxophonist John Butcher, straight out of Europe's avant-garde music scene, performs with Gino Robair and Matthew Sperry. Bruno's, 2389 Mission St., 9 pm & 11 pm, \$10. 648-7701.

20 WEDNESDAY

Virtual corporatism – Media Alliance



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speaker and Stanford Law School professor Lawrence Lessig will discuss how changes in the way the internet is coded, designed, and governed could put control of it into the hands of a few corporations. KQED, 2601 Mariposa St., 7 pm, \$12. 546-6334.

21 THURSDAY

Univ. of CA at Mission District – UCSF offers tours of the site where it's building the new 43-acre campus, and displays plans at the Catallus Mission Bay Visitor's Center. UCSF Library, 530 Parnassus Ave., 12 noon, free. Call in advance for reservations: 476-4394.

22 FRIDAY

Evening of Dance – The talent of Latino/a dancers performing in honor of the late, great Hank Tavera. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission St., 7-9 pm, \$5-\$10. 821-1155.

23 SATURDAY

Girls' party – DJ's Chili D & Edaj spin hip hop, reggae/dancehall, salsa, samba and soca at Mango: Sweet Sexy Fun for Women, with free barbecue. El Rio, 3158 Mission St., 8 pm-2 am, \$8. 282-3325.

Powerful poetry – Alfonso Texidor, Jorge Argueta, and others present a night of poems entitled "Poets Against Impunity." Cafe La Boheme, 3318 34th St., 7:30pm, free. 643-0481.

24 SUNDAY

Listen to Lizt – Community Music Center faculty performer Janet McLean (piano) presents works of Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, and Liszt. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St., 4 pm, \$10. 647-6015.

25 MONDAY

Got plans? – The Mission Planning Council, a coalition of non-profits and neighborhood associations, meets to discuss issues relevant to the Mission community. Free lunch. Arriba Juntos, 1850 Mission St., 12-2pm.

26 TUESDAY

Old style variety for new style causes – Viva Variety XVII, The Gay Pride Show, presents an evening of dance, spoken word, music, comedy, performance art, and theater, all to benefit the Positive Resource Center, Black coalition on AIDS, Project inform, and many other local organizations. Theatre Rhino, 2926 16th St., 8 pm, \$20. 863-0741.

27 WEDNESDAY

Flamenco dance the night away – Live flamenco performance by Yaelisa & Caminos Flamenco Co. El Rio, 3158 Mission St., 8pm (sharp!), \$10. 643-3486.

28 THURSDAY

Bitchfest – SF's *Bitch* magazine invades Modern Times to celebrate the release of its new music issue, with readings from

the issue, always rousing Q&A, and snacks. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St., 7:30pm, free. 282-9246.

29 FRIDAY

On the road – *Zapatour: La Dignidad Rebelde* presents art by people who were with the the Zapatistas on their historic march to Mexico City in February 2001. The march marked the first appearance of Subcomandante Marcos and the Zapatista leadership outside of Chiapas. Media Alliance, 814 Mission St., 7 pm, free. 546-6334.

Dine with earth-movers – International Development Exchange holds its annual community dinner with food from around the world, live entertainment, and a prize-drawing with guests who work for social change around the world. Women's Building, 3543 18th St., 7-10 pm, \$25. 824-8384.

30 SATURDAY

Celebrate Mango – At the Mango Mega Marathon and 4th Anniversary celebration, with live music of Julio Bravo y orquesta Salsabor on the patio and free bbq. At night, Mango DJ's Edaj and Chili-D spin. El Rio, 3158 Mission St., 3 pm-2 am, \$10. 643-3486.

ONGOING THEATER AND DANCE

Puppets and priests – Playwright Liebe Wetzel explores the phenomenon of clergy sexual abuse through the unlikely medium of puppetry in *Snake in the Basement: The Prosecution of Rev. Bill Pruitt*, a critically acclaimed production by Lunatique Fantastique. Through June 10 at the Marsh, 1062 Valencia St., \$15-20. 826-5750.

Being male in the age of "Girl Power" – "My Beautiful Sister," a photography exhibit by Tasmanian Tony Ryan, is a contemplation on the modern hetero male's relationship to women. June 4- July 23, 2-10 pm, Artists' Television Access, 992 Valencia St. 824-3890.

Avoid lesbian bed death – *Sax and the Single Dyke: A Screwball Love Story*, a play about two SF roommates who figure some things out about themselves when confronted by one's ex husband and a personals ad. June 7-July 1, Theater Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., 8:30 pm, \$15. 861-5079.

Brotherly love – *Texas*, a play by Judy

Soo Hoo, explores what happens when a college boy spends a night of psychological and physical games with two brothers in a trailer on the flats of Texas. June 16-July 8th, The Thick House, 1695 18th St., 8:00 pm, \$15-\$18. 401-8081.

Feast your soul – At *Monk at the Met: Feast of Souls*, a multidisciplinary dance performance by Guggenheim Fellow Sara Shelton Mann, with film, music, and text. June 21-July 1, ODC Theater, 3153 17th St., 8 pm, \$18. 863-9834.

The worlds first (caught) female serial killer – The world premier of a new opera about Aileen Wuornos, the lesbian serial killer on death row for the killings of seven men in Florida, represents the rare production of an opera composed by a woman. Showing June 22-24 at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission St. For price and times call 554-0402.

The SF G & L Dance Fest – The SF Lesbian and Gay Dance Festival celebrates its 5th Anniversary with performances of original works on political, social, and personal themes. June 15-17, 22, 24, and 29 through July 1. Dance Mission Theater, 3316 24th St., 8 pm, \$15. Call for specific performances: 546-6170.

DAYS OF THE WEEK

Mondays

Hootenany redux – Eric Shea and Molly Tuttle perform their Monday Night Hoot of early sixties acoustic folk rock and stuff like that in the Songwriters Showcase. Cafe Du Nord, 2170 Market St., \$5. 861-5016.

Tuesdays

First tango in protest – Cellspace offers a new visionary dance class, "Tango for Protest." Cellspace, 2050 Bryant St., 6-8 pm, \$6. Call 648-7562.

Meditate at a discount – Psychic Horizons, a school for meditation and healing since 1971, offers a free meditation class. Psychic Horizons, 972 Valencia St., 7:30, free.

Habla espanol? – SF Public Library hosts an all-levels Spanish conversation group at the Bernal Heights Branch, 500 Cortland Ave., 7:30 p.m., free.

Wednesdays

There's a spectre haunting the Bay – The spectre of Bay Area Radical Women, presenting the Radical Women Manifesto: Socialist Feminist Theory, Program, and Organizational Structure, a

weekly discussion group on these revolutionary ideas. New Valencia Hall, 1908 Mission St., 7-8:30 pm, free. 864-1278.

Scrabbled Eggs – Bring your dictionary and your meet your vocab-loving soul mate @ Scrabble Nights, Wednesdays @ Bernal Heights Branch Library, 7 p.m., free.

Thursdays

Soul-like, soulful . . . – "Soulness" with DJ Goldmyne, English Steve and special guests, spinning the good ol'vintage soul and R & B, Thursdays at Hush Hush, 496 14th St. @ Guerrero, \$3. 241-9944.

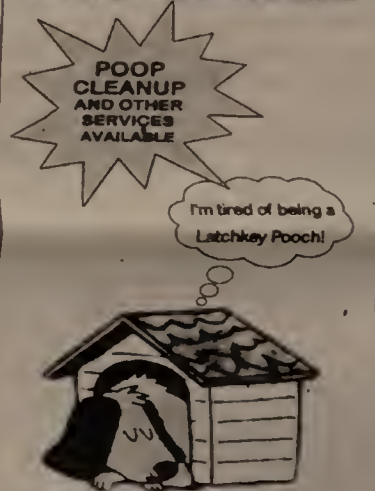
Fridays

There's no 'R' in "May" – Free oysters and a world beat dance party with DJ Jose Ruiz. El Rio, 3158 Mission St., 3-9 p.m., \$8. 282-3325.

Saturdays

All aboard – Mike Duvall & Friends perform their wild comic ride in extended performances Saturdays, the Marsh, 1062 Valencia St., 7:30, \$7. 826-5750.
Other Cinema – If it's alternative, indie, hidden, thrown to the wayside, different, or delightfully bad, it'll show up here. Artist's Television Access, 992 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., \$5. 648-0694.

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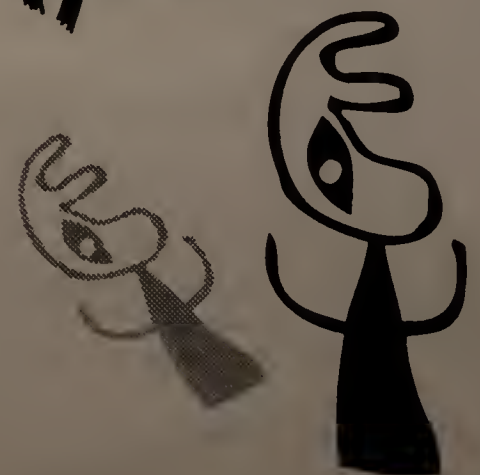
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GALLERY EXHIBITION

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Two local cinema institutions turn twenty five

S. F. Gay and Lesbian Film Festival celebrates its 25th Anniversary

By Tom Mayer

The San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival celebrates its 25th year with a spectacular program of films from June 14 through June 24. The films will be presented at the Castro Theater, Roxie Cinema, Victoria Theater, Herbst Theater, and the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts.

The festival, which started as a super 8mm film festival on February 9, 1977, has grown to be the largest festival of its kind in the world. This year's festival includes 352 films and videos from 26 countries, with 80 feature films and 272 short films.

Opening night will feature two films at two different locations: *Gaudi Afternoon*, set in Barcelona and directed by Susan Seidelman (*Desperately Seeking Susan*), will open the festival on June 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Castro Theater. This film stars Judy Davis, Marcia Gay Harden, Lili Taylor, and Juliette Lewis. *Metrosexuality*, a new gay-themed TV series from England, will start at 8:30 p.m. at the Yerba Buena Center.

The closing night film will be Julie Davis's *All Over the Guy* at 7:00 p.m. at

the Castro Theater. The special Centerpiece film will be *Adventures of Felix*, by French directors Olivier Ducastel and Jacques Martineau. This award-winning feature has gotten rave reviews, and tackles the issues of culture clashes, racism, and anti-gay attitudes.

The Frameline Award will be presented this year to the surviving founders of the festival, Marc Huestis, Dan Nicoletta, and Ric Mears. Local filmmaker Huestis will present his hour-long survey of the festival's history with 25—*A Brief History of the Festival* to be shown on Sunday, June 17 at 11 am at the Castro Theater.

This year's festival will feature several films from Latin America, including Argentina's *Plata Quemada* (*Burnt Money*), a steamy hit film about an ingenious heist gone wrong. Major feature films from other countries include *French Dressing* (Japan), *Phantom* (Portugal), and *Fleeing by Night* (Taiwan).

Local filmmakers present short films in *De Colores*, a program of queer Latin shorts. *De Colores*, by Peter Barbosa and Garrett Lenoir, explains how Latino families are changing anti-gay traditions. Other local Latino filmmakers featured are Al Julian with his film *Corn in the Front*



Corn in the Yard

Yard, and two films by Samuel Rodriguez, *Calm Awakening* and *Your Denim Shirt*.

Documentaries include *Scout's Honor*, about the national campaign of Scouting for All to change the Boy Scout policy on gays, *Hope Along the Wind*, the life of longtime gay activist and leftist Harry Hay, and *Fassbinder's Women*, a portrait of Germany's famed gay director Rainer Werner Fassbinder.

Special compilations include *Bride of Trailer Camp*, a hilarious review of movie previews of the past, and *Out of the Closet, Off the Screen: The Life and Times of William Haines*, a documentary of Hollywood's biggest star of 1930, who was forced to retire from movies by the studio system.

The festival will also feature a panel discussion of writers and directors, *Reel Divas: From Scribe to Screen* on Monday, June 18 at 6:30 p.m. at Herbst Theater. This panel discussion will include writers Dorothy Allison and directors Donna Deitch and Patricia Rozema.

Tickets will be available at the Festival Box Office at 557 Castro Street (between 18th and 19th Streets) beginning Friday, June 1. Tickets may also be purchased by phone at (925) 275-9490, fax at (925) 866-9597, or mail (SFILGFF, PO Box 2229, Danville CA 94526). Tickets can also be purchased online at www.frameline.org. For more information on the festival and on how to purchase tickets, call the 24-hour hotline at (925) 275-9490 or visit the festival online at www.frameline.org/festival.



Plata Quemada (Burnt Money)



Bill Banning (left) with Roxie founder, the late Robert Evans

Roxie hits the quarter century mark

On Sunday, June 10, the Roxie Cinema will celebrate its 25th anniversary with a special presentation of *Singin' in the Rain* and a party after the 7:30 p.m. show.

Current owner Bill Banning and programmer Elliot Lavine have kept the Roxie's programming "the most adventurous in the U.S. for a repertory theater," in the words of SF Weekly.


The Roxie was built in 1912 by Philip H. Doll, a local jeweler, as the Poppy Theater. After that, the theater had many names, including the Rex, the Gem, and the Gaiety, until in 1933 (after a renovation including the addition of the unusual marquee with no place for film titles) it became the Roxie.

The Roxie was a neighborhood movie

house for many years (along with a sister theater, the Cameo, which showed only Westerns). The Roxie would change programs twice or three times a week, and put out a small flyer every week with the movie titles. Then, from 1966 to 1976, the Roxie was a porno movie house.


In March 1976, Robert C. Evans, Richard Gaikowski, and Peter Moore got a lease to run the theater. (Your intrepid reporter became a partner in June.) The new partnership began running the theater as a repertory theater, with an eclectic mix of features, documentaries, political films, and short films.

The Roxie has survived and thrived with the addition of Roxie Releasing in 1993, allowing Bill Banning to obtain the distribution rights for unusual films which might not otherwise get U. S. distribution.



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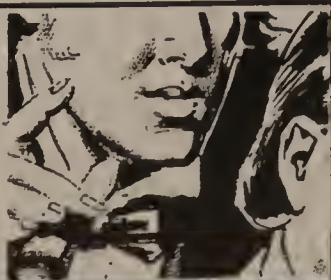
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THE DISH IN THE MISSION



Jane Dixon

June greetings, friends and neighbors. Wow, I've got lots to tell. Thanks to last month's email about "Favorite Things in the Mission," it's been my pleasure to get phone calls and emails and comments from people who I've asked, and each of them leaves us both happier and smiling.

I think it goes without saying that the weather is surely a big piece of it for everyone. Where else on earth is there totally tolerable weather (no heat or air-conditioning required) 360 days a year? For some of us it sometimes gets a tad too cold, for the rest, a tad too hot, but we're talking five days a year.

Don't read this if I've said it before, but I didn't move 3,000 miles to California or to San Francisco: I moved to *The Mission*. I didn't know it beforehand, just lucked into a great apartment in a great Victorian on South Van Ness. Alas, the great spot in the beautiful Victorian got way less great when the ownership changed hands. Yet I'm still in this glorious neighborhood. Thanks, Bob, chauffeur-with-cell-phone who was smart enough to know I should stay in the Mission.

For one who speaks Spanish as a first language, all you really have to learn is the money if you live here. Susan pointed out that the Heung Yuen Restaurant between

Bartlett and Valencia on 22nd has a menu written in Mandarin, English and Spanish! Even the little children of Chinese shopkeepers speak some Spanish and, presumably, English as well.

Next Big One: People have difficulty putting into words (English words, anyway) the *spirit*, the *vitality*, the *fecundity* of the Mission that makes them want to live here. From the stacks of fruits along Mission Street to the blooming everything, all year round, to the fact that there's always something new happening, The Mission LIVES! (Would somebody ask their teenager what word should replace "lives"? I'm sure there's a hipper way to say that. And all is just taken as the given reality. (That last part about reality was pretty late at a party.) Or maybe we're all celebrating life here, and just forgot sometimes.

More: Vicki likes the spinach béchamel at Esperpento on 22nd and King's Bakery on Mission for pretty much all their offerings. Stephanie, who lives on a very strict budget, says she's sure she couldn't afford to live any place else in San Francisco. With only the occasional trip to the Safeway, Stephanie buys *everything* in The Mission. And there is nothing that you can't buy in the Mission. The bargains are bounteous. Thrift shops, previously owned records, books, shoes, and clothes are for sale everywhere and, on

weekends, privately offered everywhere and on the sidewalk next to everywhere.

Peter adores the 99 ¢ stores. He always has some new charming cha-cha in his apartment, and loves it even more when he tells you what a bargain it was. The Mission is a bargain hunter's paradise. And the public transportation is so very available; I've seen people on a bus who've come from way far away to shop here. (I always look to see what they've bought: produce, fish and large amounts of toilet paper head the list.

JT acknowledged the charm of Café La Boehme, but says you don't know cafés until you've visited the Atlas Café at 20th and Alabama. "It's got everything," he said, plus live bluegrass music and great food and a whole bunch of other great stuff. The only way to learn about a coffee shop's ambience is to go there. I plan to as soon as this issue goes to press.

Julie says that Lynn, at the toddler drop-off center at Precita Eyes Mural Center, is one of her favorite reasons to live here. And asks that nitpickers who may not think that Precita is "The Mission" acknowledge that it surely is part of Mission life. She also likes The Women's Building on 18th Street (worth going by for the murals, if not the uncountable resources inside), and the Saint Francis Fountain and Candy Store on 24th. I think that's about ice cream. Peter also lists burritos as one of the Five Best Things. He likes some better than others, but basically it's the concept of burritos that delights Peter. He's from New England and I know there aren't many burritos of any merit there.

OK, enough favorite things for this month; I'm saving some of mine to add to the continuing list (I hope) that y'all will think of and tell me about.

I owe an apology to the folks at Dance Mission Theatre, when I was listing surviving dance venues in the April edition. Dance Mission Theatre is located at 3316 24th Street, second floor, and is going strong, with no intention of leaving.

Now here's some dish on comings and goings of new locales here. Crewe has quietly opened their doors and darlins, the Party's on. Big Time Mardi Gras every-night kind of parties. Borderlands Books has indeed moved into the space formerly occupied by Captain Jack's. They specialize in science fiction and fantasy. And also on Valencia, Phoenix quietly opened their doors, and I've heard the food is great and for those who like BIG servings at affordable prices, it's a winner. There's a restaurant called Window which I haven't seen, but have heard about: white tablecloths and affordable. This is just dish, remember.

This one is a "favorite thing" and a "New locale."

A lovely lady named Muriel has called several times to just *rave* about a fairly new restaurant at 18th and Guerrero. The name is Mereb Restaurant; the food is Ethiopian. The owners, a family, are just wonderful, too. Muriel tells me it's open for breakfast, and she makes a point of having a leisurely morning there. And takes her whole family for dinner. I'll let you know more next month.

I noticed the opening of a new Yoga place on 20th Street near Mission. There's talk of lots of private "wellness centers" in the planning; most seem to be near Potrero—is that called South of Mission or East of Mission? This question is being asked in all seriousness and it would be greatly appreciated if somebody will answer it. Ciao for now.

Jane Dixon can be reached at TheDishatNMN@aol.com or 826-2320.

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NEIGHBORHOOD BEAT



Blanca Diaz is welcomed to St. Luke's

Blanca Diaz: courageous survivor

Blanca Diaz, a twenty-three year old mother of two, had her leg severely crushed when her home collapsed during the El Salvador earthquake in January. A visiting American medical team associated with St. Luke's Hospital examined Diaz' x-rays and discovered, in addition to the traumatic damage, a massive tumor in her leg that would soon prove fatal. To save her life they amputated the leg, but Diaz' chances of survival without expensive chemotherapy treatments unavailable in El Salvador remained less than 10%.

St. Luke's Hospital, through Operation Rainbow, a humanitarian aid program it sponsors, arranged for Diaz to be brought to the United States for six months of aggressive chemotherapy which will greatly increase her chance of survival. When Diaz arrived at St. Luke's on

May 24th, a reception was held at the hospital in her honor.

Despite the ordeal she had undergone, the prospect of an extended separation from her children, and a long and painful medical procedure ahead, Blanca Diaz charmed everyone at the event with her good spirits and gregarious nature. She will be staying with a Mission District family while she is in the United States.

Donations from Hangar Prosthetics and Orthopedics and drugs provided by Immunex, a Seattle-based company, have helped defray some of the expense, but Diaz' care will still cost an additional \$50,000. To raise this money St. Luke's has established the Blanca Diaz Fund. Donations can be sent to St. Luke's Hospital, Attn. Blanca Diaz Fund, 3555 Cesar Chavez Street, SF, CA 94110. A hotline about Blanca Diaz has also been set up at 415-641-6465.

Re-joycing at Modern Times

James Joyce's *Ulysses* is one of those books you shouldn't read alone; not because it'll give you the chills like Stephen King's novels but because in parts, a lot of parts, it's damn near incomprehensible.

The pun-prone Irishman's masterpiece somehow made it into the canon of Western literature without inspiring a Cliff Notes version, causing generations of *poseurs* and twitty English Lit types to ramble on inanely about Bloom's sexuality and Stephen's hygiene, annoying all the rest of us who were sure they were full of "it," but didn't want to own up to the fact that we were baffled by Joyce. Most of humanity had to, and was largely content to, confine itself to the infamous "dirty" passages which are the most accessible and which were the subject of a famous obscenity trial.

If ever there was a book crying out for

a book group, *Ulysses* is it. So, re-Joyce! The reading group is on again at Modern Times Books. Michael Rosenthal, who led the first *Ulysses* group a few years ago, has decided to have another go at it. Taken in weekly two- chapter bits, with lots of support, a few hints and a street map of Dublin, the book actually turns out to be an enjoyable experience.

Even if you're not sold on it as the greatest thing ever written, next time you encounter a *poseur* twit at some social gathering you will be prepared to knock him around the room with your erudition instead of a beer bottle.

There will be a public lecture on the difficulties of reading *Ulysses* on June 13 (Bloomsday) at 7:30 at Modern Times Books, 888 Valencia. The reading group, limited to 30 people, begins June 20th and continues every Wednesday through August 22. A \$100 donation helps Modern Times continue its good work. For more information call 282-4925.



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Samba do Coracao at Ethnic Dance Festival

If you missed this year's Carnaval there's still an opportunity to catch some of the excitement when Carnaval favorites Samba do Coracao perform at the Ethnic Dance Festival on June 9 and 10. The company will perform a lively stage presentation of Rio's Carnaval with a piece called "Fanfarra de Carnaval" (Carnaval Fanfare) which includes the most important elements of the samba school: the bateria (percussion section), mestre sala and porta bandeira (master of ceremonies and flag bearer), balanas (women of Bahia honoring Brazil's African roots) and cabroshas (samba dancers).

Samba de Coracao has now been performing and offering classes in Brazilian

The always molten Liquid Fire dance and drumming for ten years. Under the continuing artistic direction of Mary Dollar and Fernando Sanjines, the group will be going on an extensive summer tour including a stop at the un-tropical Alaska State Fair. They have received numerous awards, including Best Brazilian Contingent and Second Grand Prize in San Francisco Carnaval 1997 and 1998. In 1999 they produced their own CD, *Heartbeat of the Jaguar*.

The San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival, held at the Palace of Fine Arts on the weekends of June 9-10, 16-17 and 23-24 includes 30 groups from a diverse range of countries including China, Senegal, Tahiti and Mexico. For more information go to www.worldartswest.org.



Queer Arts Festival June 1- July 4

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Parade is on June 24 but the 4th annual National Queer Arts Festival will be happening throughout the month of June and into July. The festival will be held at 13 different venues, all but two of which are conveniently located in the Mission or South of Market. The events include over 40 performances and exhibitions that run the full gamut of the arts from opera to photography to spoken word performances. Artists include some well-known names and emerging queer artists from around the world. Here are some highlights:

Comedienne Marga Gomez performs her one-woman show *Higher Higs, Lower Lows* on a double bill with Felice Shays' *Psychosemetic*. Everything is fair game for Gomez' rapier wit, while Shays ponders Jewish Law questions like "Should dildoes be circumcised?"

Carla Lucero's opera *Wuornos* will

have its world premiere at the festival. Like most opera, this one tells a musical tale of sex and violence: the life of sex worker and serial killer Aileen Wuornos, currently on death row.

In *Herstory of Porn Real To Reel*, Anne Sprinkle, the original sex-positive feminist, interacts with clips for some of the more than 200 movies she's made, including her newest one, *Teenage Mermaid Fanta-sea*, an instructional video on making your own porn.

Liquid Fire (pictured above) presents *Nasty*, works of dance, music, song and spoken word that promise to make your knees weak, your toes curl and your mouth water. Liquid Fire, an annual multi-disciplinary workshop now in its fifth year, is dedicated to celebration of the erotic power of lesbians of color.

The festival is produced by the Queer Cultural Center and the Harvey Milk Institute. For more information call them at 552-7709 or go to www.queercultural-center.org.

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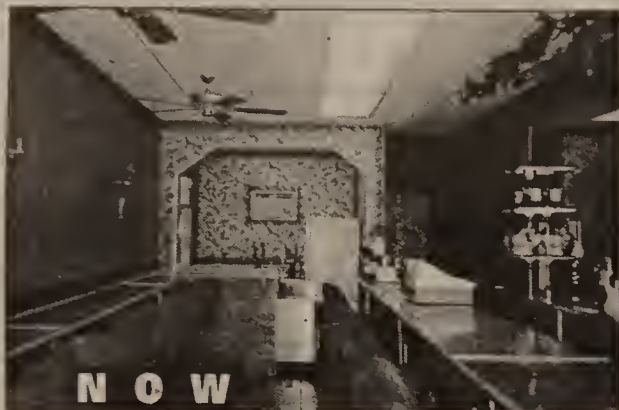
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CRIME FILE

RON MCGLASHAN

Rape on Mission Street

3000 Block, May 14, 2am

While using a toilet at this location a young woman was attacked by a black male. The woman was forced to the floor of the bathroom and raped by the suspect. The Sex Crimes Unit was notified.

Robbery on 16th Street

16th and Mission, May 14, 2am

A woman was robbed at gunpoint at this location by a black male suspect. The man approached the woman, brandished a gun and demanded all her money. The victim complied with the demands of the suspect.

Armed Robbery on Potrero

Potrero and 17th, May 16, 6:30am

A man was robbed at this location by two Hispanic males. On the way to the store the victim was confronted by two men who asked him if he had any money. One of the suspects brandished a weapon while the other frisked the man and stole his wallet. The suspects fled the area on foot.

Rape on Potrero

18th and Potrero, May 19, 9am

A homeless woman was attacked at this location by a black male. The woman was forced to the ground at which time the suspect forced her to perform an oral sex act. The woman reported the crime to San Francisco General Hospital. The Sex Crimes Unit was notified.

Stabbing on 24th Street

24th and South Van Ness
May 19, 3am

A gang related stabbing took place at this location. The victim was stabbed in the upper and lower back by alone Hispanic

suspect. The victim was transported to SF General Hospital.

Armed Robbery on 26th Street

26th and Bartlett, May 22, 2am

A lone black male suspect exited his vehicle at this location and approached three white females who were in their car. the suspect brandished a gun and demanded that the women give him all their money. The women complied and the suspect fled the area in his car.

Robbery on 17th Street

17th and Mission, May 25, 3am

Two Hispanic males were robbed at knife point by two black males and a white female at this location. The female suspect approached the victims and asked if they had any money. One of the other suspects then drew a knife and demanded the victims give him all their money. They complied and the suspects fled on foot.

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Latin soul men of Sangano play at ODC on June 16

Raices del Barrio at ODC Theater

by Jill Winkelstein

Tired of commercial venues where artists often only perform as background music for patrons who are eating and drinking, ODC Theater decided it was high time to give local performers in the Mission a space of their own. The result is *Raices del Barrio* – a multi-disciplinary performance series that provides an artistic venue for local Latino and other minority artists in the Mission.

The Mission has seen many changes over the years, including the neighborhood becoming a big draw for more affluent folk from outside of the community. Many venues cater to those who are not from the Mission and aren't affordable to most neighborhood residents. In addition, the artists who perform in these establishments represent a narrow cross-section of artists and largely exclude most of the working artists whose art embodies the soul of the Mission. These are precisely the artists that *Raices del Barrio* is designed to serve.

The series kicks off with an investigation of Latin rock on June 16 at 8pm. Chuy Varela, who has been called a "walking archive of musical history," will moderate a discussion with a panel of old-school Latin rock veterans which will chronicle the evolution of Latin rock over the last 30 years.

Next up will be a musical performance by Sangano. Following in the spirit of artists such as Santana, Richie Havens, Mongo Santamaria and New York salsa/funk guru Joe Batan, Sangano brings the flavor of *Altima Latina* (Latin Soul) to *Raices del Barrio*. First gaining popularity in the Mission, *Altima Latina* is a hybrid that fuses Latin rhythms, rock, soul and funk. Vocalist David Padilla, guitarists Alfonso Morales and Gabriel Sandino, percussionist Enrique Padilla and saxophonist/singer Steven Pitsenbarger jam with special guests.

Raices del Barrio also includes a slide show featuring photographs by Mission resident and photojournalist Pancho Alatorre, which serves as the backdrop for the evening's events. San Francisco-born Alatorre has been photographing the Mission for the last five years and his photography captures the diverse cultures that exist within it.

The evening concludes with a party featuring deejays Eric Quezada and Oscar Grande from Third World Liberation Music.

Tickets are priced on a sliding scale to be accessible to lower income people in the Mission district. For more information call the ODC box office at 415-863-9834.

Raices del Barrio: Saturday, June 16 at 8pm ODC Theater, 3153 17th Street @ Shotwell, San Francisco, Box Office: 415.863.9834, Tickets: \$8-12/Sliding Scale. Tix Bay Area in Union Square.

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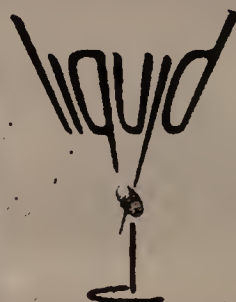
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In Chile Lindo's previous incarnation the "patio" was a great spot to watch televised soccer matches. It still is. Photo by Arthur Hudson

WHAT'S AN EMPANADA?

By Jane Anne Doherty

- A: A vine with red and purple flowers
 B: A turnover, usually stuffed with meat
 C: A new dance craze South of the Border

If you picked B, congratulations, you win. And if you didn't pick B, fret not, you still can have some empanadas right here in The Mission. Originally a Spanish creation, the classic empanada is a round pastry turnover, filled with ground beef, spices and raisins. Well, apparently Chile has taken the dish as their own, and at Chile Lindo, you can sample some of this "portable" food almost any time you want.

I've met empanadas in different sizes, from small appetizer two-bites to really big ones. As for the size that Chile Lindo serves, I'd say it was about a ten-inch circle of pastry before it was stuffed and baked. It's the perfect size for a quick and small item for a "tied me over." (My word! What a strange phrase: "tied me over"—sounds like something else entirely, doesn't it? And I think this is the first time I've ever written it. Did I spell it right?)

Chile Lindo's empanadas are not only the perfect size; they're the perfect walking around food, too. Pizza's too messy; burritos are too, well, much. (I've wanted to try one of those corn-on-the-cob-on-a-stick treats, but don't know which toppings to get. Suggestions?)

Chile Lindo's empanadas come with four fillings: chicken, beef, tuna and vegetarian. Add a few coffee creations (cappuccino, latte, and espresso) and that's the

whole menu. Pure and simple. However, this is the kind of food for which every household has a secret family recipe; there's nothing simple in the making.

Where the fun comes for me is deciding which kind to order. I've sampled three so far and here's the scoop: in the chicken, a cumin flavor, mixed with pepper and becoming very much like curry, predominates. I never thought of curry as Chilean; I thought Middle Eastern. If I knew any history at all, I'd probably know why there are lots of similarities between empanadas and other Middle Eastern dishes. The curry taste is a very pleasant surprise. (Unless you cheated and read the menu!) As in all empanadas, you'll find that fabulous subtlety of sweet and savory plus some heat. Raisins provide the sweet, mostly.

The Beef one is almost the classic Spanish pico (filling), with the addition of a hard-boiled egg. Another surprise!

I haven't tried the Tuna yet, but have had the Vegetarian. I think it's my favorite. It's a terrific, really sweet, really hot, really balanced selection of vegetables and spices and honey. Each empanada is \$3.50, and \$3.00 by the dozen.

If it's raining or something really bad is happening outside, you can eat them inside the cute little hole-in-the-wall at 2944 16th Street at Capp. That's the historic Redstone Building. Some of you, more knowledgeable than I, know that Chile Lindo had been there before, so this is not only a "Be Sure To Check It Out," it's also a "We're Really Glad You're Back, Chile Lindo!"

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Library Lady



Mission Branch

Dear Library Lady:

I love to read but simply do not have the time! I take my kids to the library every few weeks and try to set a good example by checking out something for myself. However, I can't ever seem to finish it. Do you have any suggestions for me?

Too Busy

Dear Too Busy:

First of all, I'd like to congratulate you for incorporating library visits into your family's schedule and for setting a good example for your children. If they see you reading, they are more likely to read themselves. Children who exercise their reading skills become stronger readers and that will help them succeed in school.

Now, you do not have to read a long novel in order to read. You can read magazines such as the New Yorker, Parents, and Latin Style at the Mission Library. Many of the San Francisco Public Libraries have a separate short story section. You don't have to read every story in the book and each story is short enough to finish.

The teen collection has shorter books than those you have been reading and are quite sophisticated. In The Secret of Two Brothers by Irene Beltrán Hernández, Beaver leaves jail hoping to take care of his younger brother despite everything working against them. In the compassionate horror story The Silver Kiss by Annette Curtis Klause, Zoe seeks refuge in the arms of an understanding vampire as

her mother dies from cancer and the town has a series of brutal killings. In The Watsons Go To Birmingham - 1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis, the Watson family visits Grandma in Birmingham during this troubled time in history. In Lois Lowry's The Giver, everyone is assigned their profession in a coming of age ceremony and Jonas has been assigned the most lucrative one of all — the keeper of all memories..

Similarly, there are many children's books that adults find entertaining. Laugh out loud as 14 year old Catherine avoids marriage in the year 1290 in Karen Cushman's Catherine Called Birdy. Enjoy a mix of adventure, storytelling, and mythology in Megan Whalen Turner's The Thief as the King's Magus forces Gen to steal. Run through the streets with modern legend Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli in this multi-leveled novel. Join a secret club in E.L. Konigsburg's The View From Saturday where the academic team seems destined to come together.

The Mission Library also has audio books in English and Spanish for both adults and children. You can listen to a book while you drive, exercise, cook, or do other things. Borrow one the next time the family goes away for the weekend.

While finding time to read can be difficult, it's definitely worthwhile. May you find a way of making this enjoyable activity part of your regular schedule!

You can send a question directly to Library Lady, c/o The New Mission News, 3288 21st Street #202, San Francisco, CA 941110, or feel free to email her at Librarylady@sfpl.lib.ca.us



AN OPEN LETTER ON BEHALF OF THE SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY AND THE NEW CITY LIBRARIAN

Dear Mayor Brown,

We write to thank you for naming an outstanding individual, Susan Hildreth, as City Librarian. She has been a solid leader for the San Francisco Public Library, as shown by the success of her collaboration with you in the passage of Proposition A last November. Susan also played a key role in passage of State Proposition 14 for library construction bonds. We look forward to helping her rebuild the facilities and strengthen the services of branch libraries throughout the City.

A recipient of the Mayor's Fiscal Advisory Committee (MFAC) award for 2000, Susan is a tremendously qualified, talented person, and it is an honor for us as library users and community leaders to support her and her initiatives to make libraries an even more vital institution for every neighborhood.

We applaud your choice and know the City will benefit from Susan's stewardship of the Public Library for years to come. We, the Board and members of the Friends & Foundation, commend you.

Sincerely,

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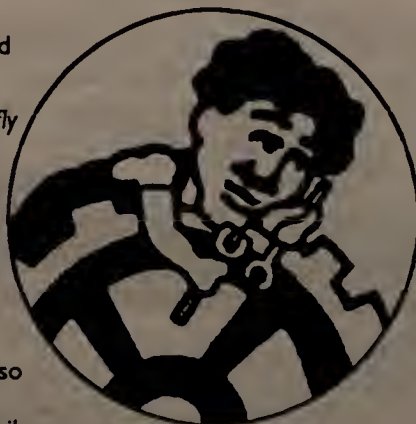
6/4 & 6/18 Doug Dowd

6/5 John Nichols
The Voice of the Butterfly
Summer Wood
Arroyo

6/6 Rebecca Solnit
Wanderlust

6/8 Event for
Marilyn Buck

6/12 Rosa Linda Fregoso
& Lourdes Portillo
*Lourdes Portillo: The Devil
Never Sleeps & Other
Films*



6/13 Ulysses Reading
Group begins

6/14 Ian Phillips
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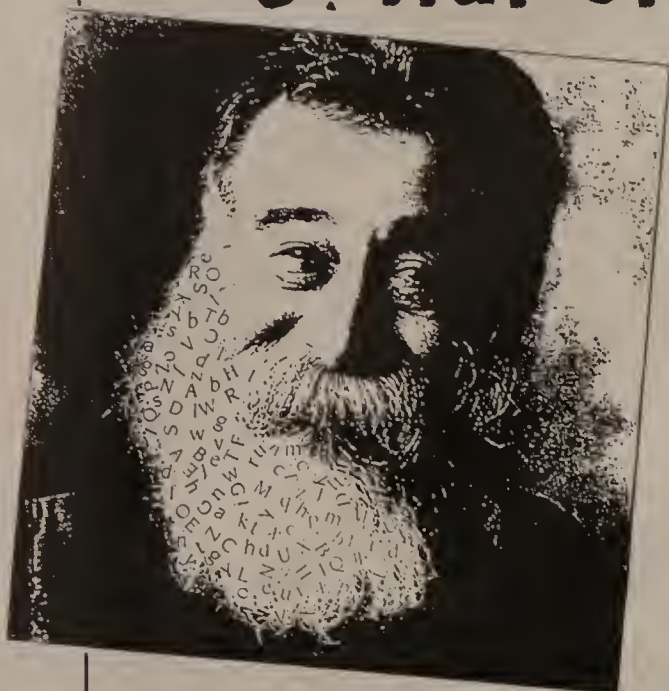
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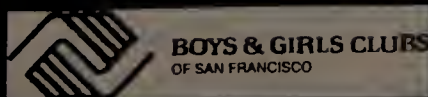
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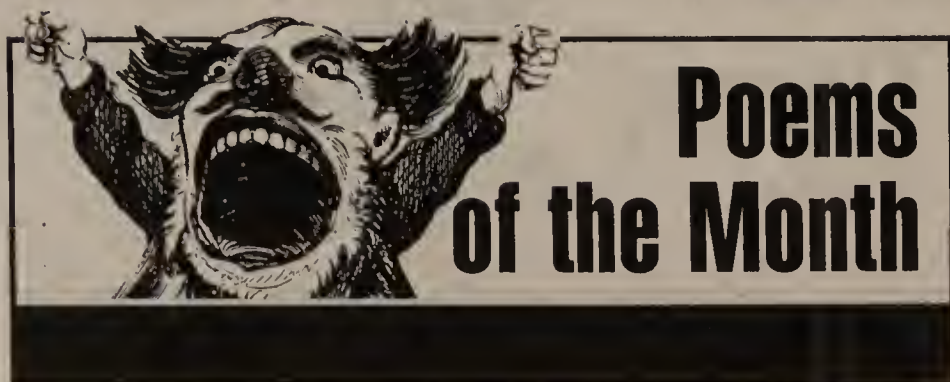
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Poems of the Month

Numberless are the peoples who look towards the sea

by Q.R. Hand Jr.

us folks are the peoples who look towards the sea
vision and memory past perfect futures are
strewn about our musics like sea weeds on the shore
our eyes hearts afired dancing on
limbs aghast and bedazzled caressing these sands
hand clappin' spirits our souls are numberless

like bands of the spectra our hues are numberless
jump back brothers see our sisters prancing on the sea
their curves and spheres rounding off the edges of the sands
making sheets of molten glisten we are
evocations of this sweet liquid strumming on
these vibrant far reaches on our full faith shore

this ritual clamor we are on this shore
spelling out the seasons of reason numberless
beings grow gills and sprout wings drunken on
the bottom of the pink coral reef then leap the sea
sailing easy to afar to a star we are
stoned reflections of to view from there these sands

who do not know they are us not these sands
our foundations on these wheels of things rolling shore
surf washed waves yearn to roll in murmurs on these grits are
relentless too in change in forms numberless
and pasteled in pale yellows mixed by the sea
and the wind and the sun our constant companions on

this sphere on this beach head here on
our minds and communal heart molds sands
into cities and ports to welcome from the sea
more ancestors to be to play on this shore
the notes of universal hide seek time here is numberless
we've known not its name we are

the growth here we are the trees we are
the creatures here so it is said on
which cosmic bet no wages subsist numberless
are the names of this life on these sands
on the dream washed up on these shores
us folks are on the peoples who look towards the sea

looking towards the sea our songs are
the bread of the shore our spirits our spawn on
these quick sands we name our selves numberless

This is one of 30 poems that make up "WE ARE OF THE SAYING" a recently released limited edition CD by the wordwind chorus, four poets, Q.R. Hand Jr., Reginald Lockett, Brian Auerbach and Lewis Jordan who have performed and grown creatively together over the last decade and a half. They are sometimes joined by historian of the Zapatista movement, John Ross and others of Beat and Hip Hop tendencies. Many of their synchronizations are jazz-injected by some fine saxophone by Jordan. Their work is wide ranging, sometimes heavily laced with the politics of revolution but always an expression of the music of words.

The wordwind chorus will be performing at New College of California 777 Valencia on June 16 at 7:30pm with the Lewis Jordan- George Sam Duo. Their CD is available at Modern Times Books, City Lights Books, Bird and Beckett Books and Records, Marcus records and Amoeba Records.

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Jose Noe, last alcalde of Yerba Buena, pioneer of laid back California style

by Judy West

Mae Silver has just published a new edition of her book, *Rancho San Miguel, a San Francisco Neighborhood History*, about one of San Francisco's earliest and most respected settlers, who was granted one of the vast, sprawling ranchos and served as last Mexican Alcalde before the Americans took over California.

California's Rancho period was eclipsed by the Gold Rush of 1849 and nearly forgotten, except for the rare efforts like this little treasure trove of local history. The period after Mexico won California from Spain, but before loosing it to the United States, is considered by many as California's Golden Age, (1821-1848) when many large ranchos were established and our unique cultural identity began to evolve.

The story of Jose de Jesus Noe provides us a glimpse into the defining character of our unique California culture. Married with a year old son, he came to California from Puebla, Mexico with a group of colonists in 1835. His first land grant was small, located near 14th and Mission. He became a farmer and rancher and held several administrative posts in Yerba Buena's government. From 1840-46 Noe acquired numerous downtown properties, including beach and waterfront lots. Eventually he ran a large working rancho with 2000 cattle, 200 horses and mares.

The expansive land grant (a square league of land = 4444.34 acres) known as Ranch San Miguel was petitioned to the Mexican government, but finally secured

in 1846 from the Americans. Rancho San Miguel occupied what is today the geographic center of San Francisco, comprising the residential neighborhoods southwest of the Mission, including Noe Valley, Eureka (Castro) Valley, Upper Market, Twin Peaks, Glen Park, Sunnyside, and further out to West Portal, Laguna Honda, Forest Hill, Diamond Heights, Ocean View, etc. Mount Davidson was at its center, northwest of the Spanish road (now San Jose Ave.), the main route between the Missions of Dolores (San Francisco) and San Jose.

During the final days of California's Spanish/Mexican Rancho Period, in 1846 Mexican born Jose de Jesus Noe loyally remained to serve as Yerba Buena's last Alcalde (mayor) before the Americans took over. The office of Alcalde (often meaning mayor) might perform many functions – sheriff, mayor, and judge. The character of the office was described as paternal and protective. He received no salary, but the office was prestigious.

A civil leader, he settled disputes and decisions were arrived at mostly by conciliation. After the Americans took over Noe promptly left for Rancho San Miguel, not to return to public office. His wife was buried beneath the headstone in the floor of Mission Dolores.

Early settlers of California (and of San Francisco), like Joe de Jesus Noe, defined the unique character and culture of Californians recognized worldwide today as "easy-going and amicable. Californians changed political leaders in a series of "bloodless coups"; a verbal confrontation declared by a group, sometimes over a



Rancho San Miguel

meal with wine, ended with a resolution that required the leader's departure back to Mexico. Their unique California way of problem solving was wiped out irrevocably when Americans conquered California, and when winning and loosing replaced the amicable California way.

In the will written by Noe shortly before his death he recommends to his sons "...that if, for some cause or other, differences should arise between them, they should avoid all legal proceedings, and submit such questions to the decision of friendly arbitration."

But once the Gold Rush started and people flooded into the region, squatting on the rancho lands was commonplace.

These were devastating and difficult times for Jose Noe and other land owners, who had to enter into litigation with the US Government to prove their ownership of land grants from the Mexicans.

Unclear land titles affected the economy of San Francisco for many years, driving away reputable people and attracting drifters. It took until 1857 for Noe's land title to be cleared by the courts, and soon afterward he began selling it off to pay the expenses imposed by the new government. He died in 1862.

To purchase a copy of *"Rancho San Miguel, a San Francisco Neighborhood History"*, by Mae Silver write to Ord Street Press 71 Ord SF, CA 94114

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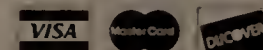


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Richard Pitt

Health Freedom

The balance between the right to choose one's own course in life and one's obligations and responsibilities to the society in which one lives creates the friction that determines our laws and the relationship between private and public enterprise, government and corporate responsibility, individual freedom and social conformity.

The concept of individual liberty and the checks which prevent abuse of power by government are built into the American Constitution. At the same time, the thread that unites this country is a democratically elected federal government with a mandate to seek the greater good for all the country's citizens, and to use its authority to limit abuses of power by individuals and organizations.

The struggle for balance between these opposite interests can be seen clearly in the field of health care. Any profession which has a social responsibility has to be accountable to society, especially if that profession wields influence and power and has the potential to do damage as well as good. In the broad area of medicine, this is achieved by licensing. In the 1800s licensure for physicians was enacted in all the states, although it was revoked a number of times by legislatures afraid that it created a monopoly of power in one professional group.

Over time however, it became the norm in establishing professional standards and accountability. The idea of licensure in medicine is to create standards of practice for the profession and to give formal oversight and accountability to enforce these standards to the medical boards of each state in liaison with other state regulatory bodies. In principle this seems a good system to have in place.

However, when the medical statutes were written, the result was a monopolistic

right to a particular practice rarely seen in any other profession. As stated in the California Medical Practices Act.... Anyone who "diagnoses" or "treats" any "ailment, blemish, deformity, disease, disfigurement, disorder, injury, or other physical or mental condition of any person" without the benefit of state licensure may, at least technically, be practicing medicine without a license.

The result is that many different therapies, even if they are not diagnosing in the traditional sense and are not prescribing drugs, can still be categorized as the practice of medicine. In other words, anything that aids another person's health can be interpreted as being within the exclusive domain of licensed physicians. Although other therapies have since become licensed, e.g. acupuncture and Chiropractic, many have not and at the moment exist in a gray area of the law.

However, there is movement afoot to address this situation by creating a law that will enable practitioners of many alternative and complementary therapies to practice freely in California without needing to go through the arduous and prohibitively expensive process of legislating for licensure.

This movement is being sponsored by an organization called the California Health Freedom Coalition. They can be found on their website at www.californiahealthfreedom.org.

They need all the support they can get to build up a huge consumer grassroots base to legislate for freedom of choice in healthcare. Their goal is not to challenge licensure of physicians but to give access to many disciplines that can offer people options in their healthcare needs, and to allow people to choose for themselves the therapies they want. Given the level of interest in alternative and complementary therapies, this would be a huge step forward.

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Ask San Francisco residents if they recycle, and odds are they will say yes. The city is full of recyclers, and many of them have a devotion for the art of reuse that goes far beyond sorting out their glass and plastic, or bundling newspapers for pickup on trash day.

Holly Eric recycles almost everything, from the usual bottles and cans, to odds and ends around the house. "Wine corks, wrapping paper, pieces of fabric, old shoelaces — anything you can imagine is donated to day care centers for crafts projects," Eric said.

For Cindy Alvarez, reducing the waste stream doesn't stop at home — she practices recycling at work in San Francisco. "At my office, we try to use both sides of the paper before recycling it," Alvarez said, "and that's been very successful."

But ask those same people if they recycle household batteries, and you'll likely be met with a blank stare. Relatively few people are even aware that those little gizmos that power your portable CD player, your cell phone, your emergency flashlight, even your watch — can be recycled.

Darcy Brown hadn't given much thought to battery recycling either, until she spotted an old battery on a San Francisco street.

"I saw this battery lying in a pool of water getting rusty and corroded, and I thought this can't be good — people throw these things in the trash. That's got to leach in the ground and into the water system."

Brown, who is the Commercial Outreach Coordinator for the city's Solid Waste Management Program, was in the position to be able to do something about the problem. She knew that Walgreens already sponsored a disposal program for used hypodermic needles. Why not a similar drop-bin for household batteries?

A number of San Francisco businesses, including Radio Shack and Cole Hardware, already accept used rechargeable or nickel-cadmium batteries, the two types of batteries that are most easily recycled. But Darcy Brown said the key to her idea was that every type of household battery should be included in the program. That includes alkaline and zinc-carbon batteries, as well as rechargeable nickel-cadmium batteries, and the little button batteries used in cameras and watches.

In fact, each American household throws away an estimated two pounds of batteries a year — that's two and a half million pounds of batteries entering the waste stream annually. Household batteries account for most of the mercury in our trash, and heavy metals like cadmium, contained in batteries, can then permeate the soil, surface water and groundwater. Mercury and mercury compounds in batteries are highly toxic to people, wildlife, and the environment. Health risks associated with mercury include kidney damage

Recycling San Francisco

What do you know about batteries?

by Maria T. Baird

and genetic, neurological, and psychological disorders. Cadmium is a confirmed human carcinogen, and is poisonous when ingested or inhaled.

By recycling batteries, environmentally conscious San Franciscans can prevent all of these harmful substances from getting into our environment.

"For Walgreens it's a no-brainer — and for us it's a tremendous program — really groundbreaking," Brown enthused. "It raises the consciousness of people, and gets that gunk out of the waste stream and water supply."

Paul Horcher, Director of the San Francisco Solid Waste Management Program, says the program is off to a quick start. "People were bringing [batteries] in even before the bins were in place, storing them in bags to take in," he said. In the first month, with minimal publicity, the program has collected three containers full of household battery, nearly 200 pounds of batteries and their toxic components, that will be recycled instead of going to the dump.

The battery recycling containers are now available at 47 Walgreens stores throughout the city. For Brown, asking Walgreens to partner with the city in the program was a perfect fit.

"I thought, everybody knows where their Walgreens is, how easy is that?" Brown said. "And it's behavior modification also. Taking one more step for taking responsibility for their footprint on the earth."

The batteries are disposed of as hazardous materials, drained of toxic chemicals, and their component metals are melted and recycled.

Recyclers around the Bay Area say they will take advantage. "Now that I know that batteries bring hazardous chemicals to landfills, I will save my batteries and bring them to Walgreens to get recycled," said Oakland recycler Jo Townson.

"I don't go through very many batteries, but I'd certainly recycle them if it were reasonably convenient," said Cindy Alvarez. "Dropping them off at Walgreens would be easy enough!"



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The Mission Creek Festival just keeps rollin' long

Fifth annual summer event is local noncorporate and barbecue

By Sonny Smith

There's two kinds of San Francisco; the one ya don't wanna be a part of... and the one ya do. *Rolling Stone* magazine was born in this city; don't forget. Summer of Love, Mark Twain's whorehouses, Harvey Milk, the whole bit. For every sick wave of high-tech conservative white-collar mediocre dreck that washes through the city there's a counter movement, something audacious and rough and unpolished and driven by spirit alone. Fresh motion like that's happening right now in this city, in this era, in these times- we just don't have the benefit of nostalgia to spotlight and expose it.

Take the Mission Creek Festival, for example. Somewhere in the late spring of 1996, local band ZMRZLINA was practicing in their basement rehearsal space on Harrison Street and a certain damp sensation, an odious, wet, soppy quality permeated their instruments and became more and more noticeable every time they practiced. Dead cat? Leaky faucet? What?

It turned out that our Mission Creek had been rerouted underground and was proceeding into their basement rehearsal space through an old elevator shaft. Mission Creek was bestowing a little fungus, and spreading a marshlike quality into

their space. It was (of course) obvious that it would and should be the name of the budding festival they were trying to get started.

The Mission Creek Festival began with several local bands, including *Virginia Dare*, *Barbara Manning*, *Industrial Hoffman* and *Zmrzlina* among them. It started at the now-defunct Star Cleaners and the next year it moved to El Rio, which has become the true home of the festival.

Now, just like the creek it's named after, the festival in its fifth year winds its way through the Mission neighborhood from June 14th through 17th, bringing over twenty bands along on its journey and leaving an eclectic celebration of local music in its wake.

It's a barbecue, people! So bring yer hanky. Plus, it marks the beginning of the summer for most of us, nestled comfortably between Cinco de Mayo and gay pride week.

"This is the first year we've included a couple of out-of-town bands; it's like bringing in extended family," says Jeff Ray, alluding to bands *Scarnella*, *Nels Kline*, *Deerhoof* and *the Centimeters*. Jeff Ray is front man for the band *Zmrzlina* that has spearheaded this festival from the start. "This is the first time we've gone



The orthographically problematic Zmrzlina plays at the Mission Creek Festival

over to the East Bay too," he says, indicating that the festival is beginning to outgrow the parameters implied by its name.

It's all out-of-pocket (Ray's pocket) and last year was the first year it broke even. "If there's any money left over we're givin' it to Kimo's" (the beleaguered Tenderloin punk club is undergoing restoration for soundproofing.) There is no corporate sponsorship. The whole festival remains grass-roots. "The idea has been to try and mix it up as much as possible, have some local hip-hop next to some country and stuff like that. I have to give a few bands guarantees but I like it more when everybody's in it together completely; we all win or we all lose." Yes, then it's a true celebration of music.

In the future, quite possibly as soon as next year, the Festival might settle into one long week, covering more and more of the city's venues like the *Noise Pop Festival*, though keeping its emphasis on local acts and crossing genres. "That's a really big part of it...keeping lots of different bands in the mix. Some of the greatest moments in the past were when *Black Dot Collective* (hip hop) came on in the midst of a bunch of rock stuff, and *Marcus Shelby* opened up the mix on the night he played, too."

Not that Mission Creek wants to throw right curves to the crowd, but definitely there seems to be a vision of mixing up the scene, reminding everybody that there's an awesome cache of different styles bubbling in the City right now.

The Festival, more than any other festival in San Francisco, keeps its emphasis on embracing all the styles that live here in

our city. To that extent, it is possibly the most truly San Franciscan of any celebratory event we have at the moment, shadowed only by Carnaval. This embracing of all kinds of styles and genres is a reflection of the band *Zmrzlina* just as much as of this city, for their music is eclectic and experimental, a veritable hodge-podge of inverted and distorted melodies spiraling off here and there to sometimes start something new, sometimes dissipate or sometimes trail along underground for a little while until it finds a correct spot to blast through the surface; not unlike the festival itself, or the creek it's named after, or our City for that blessed matter.

Festival schedule

Thursday June 14th at 9pm The Eagle: *Caesura*, *The Coach Whips* and more TBA

Friday June 15th 9pm The Stork Club (Oakland): *Scarnella*, *Nels Cline Singers*, *Deerhoof*, *Touched by a Janitor*

Saturday June 16th 3pm-1 am El Rio: *Angels Camp*, *Drizzolotto* w/*Ralph Carney*, *Extra Action Marching Band*, *Virgil Shaw*, *The Court and Spark*, *The Centimeters*, *The Roofies*, *Zmrzlina*, *Blectum from Blectum*, *Persephone's Bees*, *Liev Human*

Sunday June 17th 4pm-9pm Adobe Books (16th St. between Valencia & Guerrero) *Ralph Carney*, *Pepito*, *Sonny Smith*

Sunday June 17th 9pm-1pm The (17th @ Folsom) *Wrap party*- many surprised guests to be announced.

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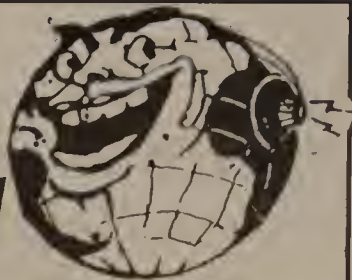
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Round World Music Review



Robert Leaver



Shades of Brown

Mission District Latin rock phenomenon *Los Mocosos* are poised to reach the masses with their new CD, *Shades of Brown*, released June 5 on the SF-based label sixdegrees. Their energetic mix of rock, ska, salsa, soul, and hip-hop may seem unlikely, but this multi-ethnic sound is simply a synthesis of styles that have a long history in this barrio.

The tight, funky drums and full Latin rhythm section pulse with a headstrong energy. Bi-lingual vocals lament the gentrification of the Mission, pay homage to Tito Puente, and angrily denounce the warzone-like status of the U.S.-Mexico border, but mostly they aim to make you dance. Retro organ keyboards, vamping horns, soulful rhythm guitar licks, and tasteful rock leads are skillfully mixed together in strong compositions.

The influence of '70s Latin Rock groups like *Malo*, and of course, Santana, is evident, and their solid version of the *War* song *Spill the Wine* makes an obvious connection. *Soy Callejero* is a turbo-charged Salsa cut while Tito Puente is appropriately reverent with a touch of Latin jazz.

The title track *Shades of Brown* is a cheerful soul anthem with a hint of psychedelia and a short rap blast and *El Gran Skalso* is an energetic, salsafied ska romp. For the Latino community and/or the socially concerned, *The Border* and *Mi Barrio Loco* should resonate profoundly.

Since the release of their first album several years ago, they have earned a reputation as powerful live performers. They will be celebrating the release of their new CD at the Elbo Room on Thursday, June 7.

Spanish/French musician *Manu Chao* has been touring the world for several years since the release of his hugely successful album *Clandestino*. Chao is regarded in Latin rock circles as a sacrosanct figure, both as the singer with *Mano Negra*, whose ska/punk hybrid in the '80s broke new ground, and as a solo artist whose politically bold attitudes are balanced with silly fun.

Finally, his new album, proxima estacion...*Esperanza* (Virgin), hits record stores this month. As the title, (translated as) "next stop, Hope," indicates, this record is meant to be positive and...hopeful.

Like the previous album, songs segue without breaks from one to another and Chao's distinctly unhurried rasp sings in Spanish, English, and French. The dominant rhythm is reggae, but there are energetic excursions into Latin and North African territories. Skanking guitar, chipper mandolin, and swinging horns characterize his relaxed songs, which are interspersed with disembodied radio voices and odd sounds filtered discretely into the mix.

Although he may be guilty of recycling some riffs, he has assembled a unique band of European and Latin American musicians whose musical vision knows no cultural barriers.

Based in Barcelona, Spain, a city that has been historically receptive to self-proclaimed anarchists, Chao has been touring extensively in Latin America, playing to huge and enthusiastic audiences of restless youth. Chao and his merry pranksters roll into a town like a gypsy rock circus and play a big show, but rather than hit the road the next day, they hang around for a few days and play a free show for the disenfranchised. For example, they recently played a free concert in Mexico City that coincided with the departure of the Zapatistas.

Ultimately, he seems more concerned with connecting to people than selling records, and perhaps that is why his records seem so sincere and distinct.

Coming to the Elbo Room (647 Valencia between 17th & 18th) Thursdays in June:

June 7 - Los Mocosos \$10 Latin Rock/Soul/Salsa CD Release Party

June 14- Mazacote \$7 Salsa

June 21 - Fito Reinoso & Ritmo y Armonia \$7 Cuban Salsa

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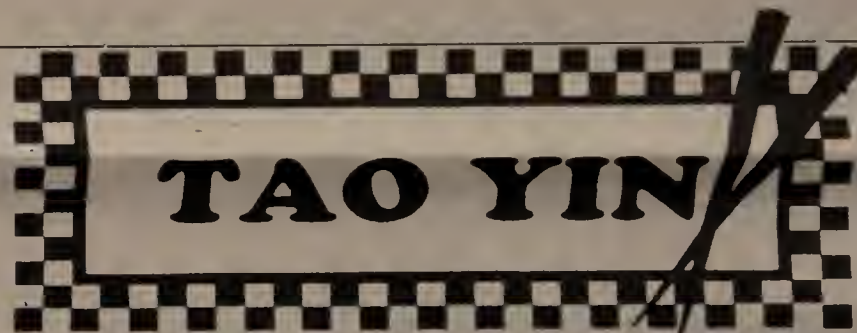
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